Agriculture — 1914

Improvement

"The farm is the place for the people of my race," said H. P. Ewing, in referring to the Kaw Valley Truck Farm company. "We aim to come to Kansas City and hire our help. Men who are loafing around the street corners now will be given an opportunity to earn good wages and also will be taught practical farming in all its branches.

"We are now employing nine men at the farm and will have employment for 60 when [illegible] time comes. As fast as our capital will permit we will lease other lands, carrying out the same system in vogue [illegible] present location, which we call No. 1. Judge Sims of Kansas [illegible]an., has promised that he will [illegible]le to us some of the negroes sentenced for minor offenses, so that we may make better men of them."

Among some of the ideas Ewing has put to practical use in his plan for intensive farming is in the raising of spinach. This he drills in and cultivates thoroughly, resulting in a plant that commands a ready market. Between the spinach rows he plants tomato vines. In 20 days the spinach is harvested and the tomato plants are in shape to furnish another good crop from the same piece of ground.

In one plot of 20 acres on the association farm he has watermelons, tomatoes and turnips. Between the watermelon rows are two rows of turnips, and between the turnip rows a row of tomatoes are planted. The watermelon vines curling around the tomato plants steady them during hard winds, resulting in a sturdier plant, while the tomato plants furnish shade for the watermelons, each benefiting the other and at the same time making the ground produce twice what it otherwise would.

While a board of directors controls the Kaw Valley Truck Farm company, the farm work is under the direct management of Ewing. The officers are: Rev. J. R. Richardson, president; Rev. Bowen, vice-president; Rev. D. B. Jackson, treasurer; H. P. Ewing, secretary and manager; Rev. George McNeal, assistant treasurer; Nick Chiles, auditor; J. F. Bradley, attorney.—Kansas City Star.

The Indianapolis News, published in a grain country, is an eight-column newspaper which runs from 8 to 24 pages daily. It is made necessary to carry that many pages to accomodate the advertising matter, and at the same time give the proper proportion of news. This simply means that business is on a boom in Indiana, where the farmers raise grain and stock things which a hungry world demands and is ready to pay for. The News is the business barometer of Indiana.

THE SOUTH'S OPPORTUNITY.

Sluggishness in cotton, attributable to the European war, is having one excellent effect in the states of the South, namely, the discussion now going on in the newspapers and having for its purpose a candid consideration of the labor problem, which for so many years has been the bete noir of that section. It is indeed pleasing to see a newspaper of the recognized standing of the Columbia (S. C.) "State," devoting its best endeavors to encourage an influx of white immigrants. The paper says:

> Cheap negro labor makes cheap white labor. The negro's low living scale accounts for his low wage scale. The white laborer who does not own land must accept the same wage or he must take refuge in the cotton mill or in some other trade from which negroes are excluded. The skillful manager of negro labor obtains a fine profit from it when cotton prices are good. He is usually suspicious of immigration. He is afraid of higher priced labor.

The "State" admits that the white wage-earning class in South Carolina, including tenant farmers, is in need of re-enforcements, and this is likely true of most of the other states of the South. The replacement of negro farm laborers by immigrants is their best hope unless gradually but constantly the farm lands are to be given up to diminishing white landlord class in control of the negro masses. Unless the white farm tenants shall be recruited, so that they will be numerous enough to exact and obtain a higher wage scale, they will be in time driven from the farms to the towns.

South Carolina and the South as a whole may get some valuable pointers from the railroad companies in Chicago, which already have set on foot an elaborate plan to provide farms in the United States for Belgians and other immigrants when the European war shall have terminated. There is every reason to believe that following the war there will be an influx of foreigners to America much larger than ever before. Future agricultural possibilities in the South are superior to those offered by many sections of the West. Here would seem to be a golden chance for the South to awaken and get its share of the white foreign population so necessary to the growth and development of its section.

Supervisor of Statistics A. T. Edmonston states in a bulletin that any Missouri city or town negro with $1,000 in cash and a little knowledge of farming can become a farmer and in four or five years have his farm paid for and be independent and well off financially. A first payment of $500 would be the opening wedge toward getting the farm, leaving $500 for purchasing farming implements or other articles which may be needed. The balance due on the farm can be paid off in small weekly installments from the money derived from the sale of crops and poultry, butter, eggs and milk. Many farms have wooded areas full of oak and other timber suitable for lumber and ties. In winter, time could be given to cutting and marketing such timber and enough earned that way to pay the yearly installment. This is the picture painted in the bureau of labor statistics bulletin of the life of the average Missouri negro farmer.

At Jefferson City, in the Lincoln institute, maintained by the state to educate negroes, the curriculum includes a course in agriculture, but the present class is not as large as it ought to be. Prof. B. F. Allen, the superintendent, in his last report to Superintendent of Public Schools Evans, gave the following facts pertaining to the negro state farm and its future:

"The farm consists of 60 acres, with a good brick cottage, barn, piggery, fruit orchard, etc., just purchased, and better opportunities will be offered for practical farming now than ever before. All surplus farm products that cannot be used in the boarding department will be sold in the local market and the money thus earned will be used in helping to stock the farm and to pay for student labor that may be needed from time to time."

On the outskirts of St. Louis city are nine fair sized dairy farms owned and operated by negroes. In Jackson county are 22 negro farmers who sell their products for a high price in Kansas City. Jasper county, with the cities of Joplin, Carthage, Webb City and Carterville, has only one negro farmer. Cole county, in which is Jefferson City, the state capital, has 16 negro farmers, who are prosperous and constantly have well-filled larders.

COMMISSIONERS MEET TO DISCUSS FOOD CROPS

Sessions Will Be of Interest to Every Farmer in the South.

The members of the Association of Southern Agriculture commissioners meet today in Atlanta for their annual convention. These men are intimate with the conditions in their several states and they are convinced that there will be a great reduction the coming year in the acreage of cotton produced. It is the problem of their present assembly to convince the farmers of their states of the opportuneness for the production of more food crops, and to provide an assured market for these crops when raised.

The commissioners will be entertained at a banquet Thursday evening at 6:30 in the Winecoff hotel. It will be a business affair where three agricultural experts will explain their plans to enable the farmer to take up the production of food crops with profit. The affair, which will conclude promptly at 8:30 o'clock, will be a "dollar dinner." The public is earnestly solicited to attend.

"The cotton problem is a states-wide problem," said C. J. Haden, president of the Georgia chamber of commerce, in commenting on the pressing situation to be considered. "Georgia produces one-sixth of the entire cotton crop, and, therefore, has great weight in leading southern sentiment.

"There is no possible doubt that the cotton crop will be reduced in Georgia, and, I believe, in the south, at least one-third. That would mean that in Georgia alone, about fifteen hundred thousand acres would either go entirely uncultivated, or be put in food crops. If the same ratio of reduction occurs through the south, there will be approximately ten million acres of land either idle or else in food crops.

"There are practically no systematized or dependable markets for food crops in the small trading towns of the south. To sell in car loads to the cities requires co-operation. If something is not done promptly the farmer would hesitate to grow something for which he has no quick market.

"I have been amazed at the number of farmers who have told me frankly that they had no nearby cash markets for food crops, and, who have, therefore, reached the conclusion that they will have to make good their loss through the present price of cotton by growing a larger quantity of it next year.

"To alter this conclusion and make plain the reasons why is the momentous proposition before the present convention of the southern agriculture commissioners. I feel sure that whenever this distinguished body of men, clothed with the responsibility of their high offices may formulate a plan it will carry great weight."

SOUTH'S CROP PROBLEM.

Booker T. Washington is of the opinion that neither the $135,000,000 cotton-pool fund nor the federal loan that is proposed in the Henry scheme will relieve conditions in the South. He also says that the advice of state legislatures, chambers of commerce, etc., to curtail cotton-growing will have only a negative effect. He explains: "To stop growing cotton is very easy; in fact, it is always easy to stop work. But merely to stop growing cotton would leave the South much worse off than it is at present. If we destroy or cripple a great industry, we should be sure to have one or a number equally good to put in its place. If labor once leaves the farm by reason of changing crops it will be very difficult to get labor to return in after years."

The South cannot merely stop growing cotton without bringing worse conditions on itself than it is now confronting. Curtailment of cotton acreage should be accompanied by substitution of other crops wherever possible. That has been the advice of everyone who has thoughtfully considered the situation. The department of agriculture is making special efforts to induce the planting of substitute crops, while numerous farm journals have advised diversification. So far as is apparent, there is no other method for relieving the South, yet Booker T. Washington seemingly does not look hopefully to diversification. The South would suffer, of course, if labor left the farms because of changing the crops, but wouldn't it suffer worse if the South continued to grow cotton or cut down the cotton acreage and did not try to raise anything else?

AGRICULTURAL BILL PASSED BY SENATE

Proposal to Distribute Portion of Appropriation to Southern Negro Colleges is Voted Down.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7—The House agricultural extension bill passed the Senate with amendments today without a dissenting vote.

The bill provides for demonstrations on farms of approved methods and scientific discoveries as to farming and home economics made in State agricultural colleges, experimental stations and in the Federal Department of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture and land-grant agricultural colleges are to outline plans for carrying out demonstrations.

As agreed to in the Senate, the bill would appropriate unconditionally $10,000 annually to each State. In addition a sum of $600,000 for the coming year, with a yearly increase of $600,000 for the next seven years, would be provided for distribution among the States on a basis of rural population, conditioned on each State appropriating a sum equal to its portion of the Federal funds. After seven years, the bill would provide a permanent appropriation of $4,800,000 annually.

An amendment requiring that negro colleges be permitted to share in the fund was defeated by a vote of 32 to 23. The bill was amended, however, as a result of a fight on the race question, by placing the distribution of the fund in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture and respective State

Governors in States having more than one agricultural college, and also specifying against race discrimination in the demonstration work.

The bill probably will be considered soon in conference between the two houses.

A proposal by Senator Jones, Washington to amend the bill to distribute a portion of the proposed appropriation for farm demonstration work to negro agricultural colleges in the South was defeated. 32 to 23.

WESTERN FARMERS ARE BUYING LAND IN DALLAS COUNTY

Advertiser 7-31-14

Several Deals in Farm Lands Lately Have Enlivened Market. White Farmers Crowding Out Negroes Slowly

Special to The Advertiser.

SELMA, ALA., July 29—Transactions in farm lands in Dallas County and other counties throughout Central Alabama continue brisk. Several deals in farm lands have taken place in Dallas County recently, and according to real estate agents quite a number of deals are now pending.

Indications are the central section of the State, within the next year or two, will be thickly settled by northern and western farmers. The western farmers who are buying land around Selma are moving their families here, and other farmers will continue to do that. It is generally conceded that within the next few years there will be very few negro farmers throughout Central Alabama, as it is believed the large tracts of land will be divided up and cultivated by white farmers.

A recent deal of some importance which will be closed within the next day or two is that by which Mr. Descher of St. Louis, will purchase a hundred acres of land known as the Mullen tract, a few miles west of Selma between the Cahaba and Marion pikes. This tract is one of the most valuable farm tracts around Selma and while no price is given, it is understood that it brought better than $50 an acre.

It is understood that Mr. Descher will put the land in cultivation at once. He will plant it in alfalfa and expects to gather a good crop this

What One Colored Farmer Did

Representative Thomas U. Sisson of Mississippi, told a story in Washington recently that ought to be a lesson to every Negro farmer, whether a land owner or tenant. Mr. Sisson owns twenty-six farms, all of them tenanted by colored farmers who grow cotton. The present slump in the price of cotton has gotten all of Mr. Sisson's tenants in a bad fix except one. He not only planted cotton, but he raised some chickens, a few hogs, lots of peas, potatoes and corn and now he has stowed away several bales of cotton holding them for higher prices. Meanwhile he is able to live on his other farm products and has paid his rent. The other twenty-five farmers will not be able to go through the winter without borrowing.

It would only require a little industry and foresight for every Negro farmer to be independent like Mr. Sisson's Mississippi tenant. It is easy to tell a farmer what to do, but here is an opportunity to point to a farmer that actually did it. In these very hard times it is very important that our farmers safeguard themselves and their families by cultivating more foodstuffs and pigs and fowls. A full corn crib and pantry is the best insurance in the world against the low price of cotton.

OLD PLANTATIONS PROVE GOLD MINES

J. Hope Tigner Tells of Big Results From Dakota Property.

Constitution 1-4-14

Something of the wonderful possibilities of subdividing the old Georgia plantations can be gathered from the work that J. Hope Tigner, farm sales manager of the Edwin P. Ansley agency, has done with the Dakota farm.

During last August Mr. Tigner subdivided a 2,600-acre plantation for the Dakota Land company into small farms, and laid out the town of Dakota into business and residence lots, which town is located in the center of this plantation on the Georgia Southern and Florida railroad.

These farms and town lots were quickly taken up by the better class of good farmers in north Georgia, when the advantages of this section were presented to them in an attractive and convincing manner. The arrival of nineteen large families at Dakota last week has transformed one of Georgia's oldest negro tenant plantations into a splendid high-class community. Twenty more families are due this month.

This little town of Dakota, on the Georgia Southern and Florida railroad, five miles north of [illegible]burn, which has lain dormant since the days when its big lumber mills and turpentine plant drifted south to the pine forests of Florida, has recently taken on new life and at present bids fair to be one of the most wide-awake and prosperous towns of Turner county.

To farming, which has been the chief pursuit of the people of that section for the past ten years, will be added soon two other important industries, that of merchandising and stock raising.

On the pasture lands of these farms can be seen the finest breeds of cattle and hogs, and in the barnyards the best Percheron stock has displaced to a large extent the western mule.

Dakota is situated in the very heart of these farms and already plans have been made for comfortable farm houses to be constructed on the various tracts and for a number of residences and business houses to be built in the town proper. With these institutions added to those that are already there this will undoubtedly be one of the most prosperous sections of the country.

CATTLE MEETING AT DAWS CLOSES FIRST CAMPAIGN

Mobile Chamber Has Many Dipping Vats to Show For Work

MOTORMAN [illegible]S HELD U[illegible]

Advertiser 12-13-14

Mobile Bureau of The Advertiser, G. J. Flournoy, Cor

Two meetings yesterday, and two tick eradication vats assured. This the new one-day record of the special cattle committee workers of the Chamber of Commerce, who closed their initial campaign for better cattle with a rousing meeting at Daweil Saturday night.

Farmers from the Semmes neighborhood traveled several miles through the cold to meet the Chamber of Commerce men. The meeting was altogether informal. The Semmes people had been keeping up with the campaign through the press and were ready to comply with the requirements to receive one of the six bulls that are to be placed about the county. Those who gave their assurance that a dipping vat would soon be built in the Semmes neighborhood were A. S. Schillinger, J. F. Harron, C. F. McCrary, J. A. Wulff and J. Joyner.

At Union Church School there was one of the most impressive gatherings of the entire twenty-two that have so far been conducted in the cattle campaign. Farmers, their wives and sons came for miles and filled the main school room to hear the speakers, and at the close of the meeting the money was subscribed at once to build a vat.

Except at Irvington, where the response was immediate, there has not been such direct evidence of the effectiveness of the tick eradication campaign, which is a feature of the better cattle movement. Union Church expects to go into the cattle and hog industry. It is one of the best farming sections of the county and formerly grew considerable cotton. The assurance was given that a second vat will be built in that vicinity, on the Dickens Ferry Road, on the plateau which has been the scene of such remarkable citrus development.

The Union Church meeting was presided over by G. E. Newman, who arrived first at the school with George Kilmer, who had concluded his address when the second car loaded with bovine enthusiasts arrived. Talks were made by Elmer R. Sly, the hog man of Creola; J. L. Cawthon, Chairman of the Commitee; J. A. Ramsey, George Kilmer, G. E. Newman and David Holt.

How Negro Can Help Curtail Cotton Crop

12/4/14 Constitution

Editor Constitution: Some weeks ago through our southern papers, I made a suggestion that each negro family raise one or more additional pigs this year in order to help bring about more prosperity in the south. I have been surprised to note how well the suggestion has been received, and how many are following it; one minister in Uniontown, Ala., went so far as to organize a Pig club in his church.

Now, I want to make one other suggestion, that, in my opinion, is of still greater and more practical importance. For months the great cry has been all through the south to stop growing cotton or reduce the acreage.

Chambers of commerce, business leagues, state legislatures, and other bodies have passed resolutions without number urging that we in the south stop growing so much cotton. To stop growing cotton is very easy; in fact, it is always easy to stop work, but merely to stop growing cotton is a mere negative proposition and will not, I fear, leave the south much better off than it is at present. If we destroy or cripple a great industry, we should be very sure to have one, or a number, equally good to put in its place. In this connection it should be kept in mind, as a matter of great importance, that if the labor once leaves the farm by reason of changing crops, it will be very difficult to get the labor to return to the farm in after years.

The great cry is to grow food crops. That is well, but one must keep in mind that the great masses of negroes who have actually grown the most of the cotton in the south for years, and who live upon the most valuable land in the south, do not hear of the resolutions that are passed by these various bodies. These people have been trained to grow nothing but cotton and do not know how to grow anything else. In fact, in many cases, they have not been permitted and are not now permitted to grow anything else!

We must also bear in mind that the largest land owners seldom visit their plantations—some not more than once or twice a year, and hence can be of little service in teaching these negro tenants how to change all at once from a cotton-producing crop to a food-producing crop.

If permanent results are to be secured the negro who actually cultivates the land must be reached and trained into growing a food-producing crop. How can this be done? My answer would be, by putting a negro farm demonstration agent into every county of the south where there is any considerable number of negro farmers. This negro demonstration agent should be a man of good common sense. He should be a man who knows the characteristics of the colored people, who knows how to reach them in and through their societies, their churches and their various organizations of one kind and another. He should be a man required to travel from one farm to another throughout the country training the negro farmer how to produce a food crop. Wherever these demonstration agents have already been at work in the south, they have done work which has been most helpful and commendable.

If this important work is to be done, no time should be lost in selecting these demonstration agents. The cost should not be very large. Either through county appropriations or from some part of the state funds appropriated for agricultural purposes, a portion of the money for the salary perhaps could be provided. Appropriations are also being made by the United States government to encourage and promote various kinds of agricultural work. Some part of this money, I feel sure, might be secured from the Smith-Lever fund or from the United States demonstration fund administered through Dr. Bradford Knapp. While I am not in position to suggest just where the money may be secured, I think that if an earnest effort is made, some portion of it can be secured from some of the funds or agencies here mentioned.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

Tuskegee, Ala.

EXPERIMENTAL CATTLE RANCH IN LOUISIANA

Constitution 9-5-14

(From Louisville Courier-Journal.)

In the hope of stimulating the production of beef cattle in the south—where land is cheap and where a good deal of it is unused—the federal government will establish a cattle ranch of 500 acres in Louisiana. The state has given the use of the land and Honduras cattle will be used in the experiment until the fever tick, against which they possess immunity, is eliminated.

No matter what other reasons there are for the high cost of meat, one reason for large meat bills is that not enough cattle are produced in the United States. The cheap lands of the south offer a great opportunity insofar as the requisite spaces are concerned. If beef cattle can be made as profitable in Louisiana as the government hopes, the industry can doubtless, be developed to the necessary proportions.

Kentucky is singularly fortunate in possessing the best of pasture, and a climate well adapted to cattle raising. The land is still cheap, enough for cattle to be pastured and fed at a profit, and much of it needs nothing so much as the fertilization it would receive from cattle. The value of cattle to agricultural lands long in use is by no means a negligible factor in making cattle raising pay. A great deal of land that has been "farmed to death" in crops which rob the soil might profitably be devoted to cattle raising. There are also wide acres which are put to little remunerative use and might be made profitable by using them for raising beef cattle.

With the range lands of the west now practically eliminated as competitors of smaller fenced farms east of the Mississippi there is an opportunity for building up a profitable cattle industry. There is also urgent necessity for doing so. The population of the country is increasing rapidly and a real and serious shortage of meat exists.

Agriculture – 1914

Improvement of

Words of High Praise For Holleman Article

Constitution 10-1-14

Editor Constitution: The contribution of J. T. Holleman, in The Constitution of Sunday, is the most valuable piece of writing that has appeared in a southern newspaper in ten years. It so seems to me. It is in the nature of a genuine message on a subject of vital practical importance to the people of the south.

When one thinks of the space given to agitations of personal, factional and party politics and the intensity which characterizes the appeals to public opinion on transient and concocted issues, it is amazing if Mr. Holleman's article shall pass without some practical response. There is no logical ingenuity or grouping of impressive words in the article, but a submission of evident facts requiring no genius to understand them.

There is something seriously wrong with an economic situation which puts a great agricultural people on their knees whenever there is the slightest disarrangement of foreign markets. People are not genuinely prosperous and certainly not independent who are abjectly so dependent.

A Correct Diagnosis.

Mr. Holleman has indicated where the evil lies. His diagnosis of the agricultural disease is convincing to those who have been reared in southern farm communities. The passing of the lands into the hands of a non-farming class has gone on before the eyes of every ordinary observer. The cilivization of the south before the civil war is usually described as feudal. It is still so and it will continue to be so as long as the tenantry of the south is held in a sort of agricultural vassalage—the sort that Mr. Holleman describes. As long as the absentee landlord dictates agriculture from the standpoint of his bank account and the immediate accumulation of ready cash, cotton is king, and the tenant will walk around in a circle to which there is no outlet. If the men who own the bulk of the lands would finance the tenant while the crop is being made and save him from the necessity of high profit charges of the merchants who have to accept the risk of second mortgage claims, the great mass of the people on the farms would begin to emerge.

A Suggestion From Ireland.

The recent land laws in Ireland aiming to cure the disastrous evil of absentee landlordism, which was reducing the Irish peasantry to slavery, should carry some suggestion to southern legislatures. The absorption in cotton can only perpetuate the depression of life in the tenant class of the south. The prosperity of those citizens who have gotten the financial advantage and the building of cities is no economic compensation to the country, which in the end must rest upon its mud-sills.

I congratulate Mr. Holleman. If what he says is not true, then those who have equal opportunity for correct judgment owe it to the public to show us.

(REV.) JOHN E. WHITE.
Pastor Second Baptist Church.
Atlanta, Ga.

The Message of a Decade.

Editor Constitution: I have read closely Mr. J. T. Holleman's article published by you September 27, on the cotton question. I have been reading for 30 years the president's message to the house every four years, and there has never been a message from the white house in that time that would compare to Mr. Holleman's message to the south published by you Sunday.

I own 3,000 acres of Georgia farms, and have for years, and I know he has put his finger on the trouble.

W. E. WIMPY.

Clarkston, Ga.

IS THERE COTTON OLIGARCHY? MR. HOLLEMAN'S CHALLENGE.

Rarely has The Constitution printed a more striking communication than the one which appears today from J. T. Holleman, of Atlanta.

Mr. Holleman has had many years' experience in the farm loan business. He knows, or ought to know, rural conditions and the financial conditions that control them like a book.

Constitution 9/27/14

He charges that—

The south is in the grip of a cotton-growing oligarchy, more powerful than the ante-bellum slave-owning oligarchy.

He charges that 70 per cent of the south's farm lands are under control of landlords, largely absentee.

That 90 per cent of the south's agricultural activities are influenced by this oligarchy.

That its members do not want and will not encourage nor permit any large crop other than cotton.

That their influence is responsible for the fetich of all-cotton, the persistent failure to diversify.

That without an awakening on part of the oligarchy, reduction of cotton output and diversification are a dream.

This is a big indictment. The Constitution does not vouch for its complete accuracy. The tremendous impetus given to corn growing and stock raising makes it sag at points. But at least Mr. Holleman is a man of sufficient authority and conservatism to entitle his statements to grave consideration.

His story is written with a clearness and a grasp that are fascinating. He has given the south a big and definite subject upon which to ponder.

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY IS THE SOUTH'S SALVATION

Constitution

Editor Constitution: I fully indorse your effort to secure a reduction in the cotton acreage next year and I write to suggest that you take advantage of this opportunity to again call attention to the wonderful possibilities of stock raising in Georgia.

It is my conviction that in the cattle industry lies the way to prosperity of the Georgia farmer—who is now behind practically every other southern state in this respect.

There are thousands of acres of land that have been cropped with cotton year after year until the elements producing the cotton have become exhausted. This soil needs rest—needs to have the grass grow on it.

There are also thousands of acres that are not adapted to the raising of cotton, but will make some of the finest pastures in the world.

With corn-fed Iowa steers bringing 11½ cents per pound live weight in Chicago, why do not more of our southern farmers raise cattle? Good dairy cows are scarce at $50 to $80 each. There is always a demand for good beef and dairy cattle, and those who are in the business have some ready money the year-round and their credit is always good.

Our federal government, our state colleges of agriculture, our state departments of agriculture and many of our southern railway systems are eager to show the farmers how to profit by this industry.

In my travel over the southern states the past three or four years I have noticed a marked increase of interest in this line of agricultural development. I am personally acquainted with hundreds of dairymen and stock raisers who are succeeding along these lines, and can safely say that there are a lesser number of financial failures in this branch of agriculture than in any other line of business.

There are many ways of getting started, and those who want information as to how to get started, it will give me pleasure, so far as my limited time will permit, to put them in touch with those who will be only too glad to put them on the right track, where King Cotton is not begging for a buyer.

We are not lacking in climate, soil or brains, but simply the application of these to the problem as it lies before us.

E. M'NISH,
President Dairy and Farm Supply Company
31 Peters Street, Atlanta, Ga.

"An Outspoken Champion Of the South's New Era"

Constitution 10-26-14

(From Orange Judd Southern Farming.)

J. T. Holleman, of Atlanta, probably knows Georgia conditions as well as any one man. A native of Bibb county, Georgia, he is to the manor born. As president of a well-known mortgage company he probably has loaned more money to southern farmers than any other individual. For these reasons, his recent letter in Atlanta Constitution is of largest importance, for Mr. Holleman charges:

1. The south is in the grip of a cotton-growing oligarchy, more powerful than the ante-bellum slave-owning oligarchy.
2. Seventy per cent of the south's farm lands are under control of landlords, largely absentee.
3. Ninety per cent of the south's agricultural activities are influenced by this oligarchy.
4. Its members do not want and will not encourage nor permit any large crop other than cotton.
5. Their influence is responsible for the fetish of all-cotton and the persistent failure to diversify.
6. Without an awakening on the part of this oligarchy, reduction of cotton output and diversification are a dream.

The charge made by Mr. Holleman is true, but there is much that he does not say that is equally true.

Certain bankers, merchants and middlemen have fattened for years by an unholy, unrighteous and illegal plucking of southern farmers. Indeed, it is customary with some merchants to charge farmers anywhere from 25 to 50 per cent higher for rations, that is, for goods furnished on credit or crop lien, than the same goods sell for at spot cash. We do not have to take anybody's word for this, because we were reared right here in this country, and know of these things from first-hand knowledge. This thing is still going on to a great extent. In some respects it is worse than robbery. It is taking away from those who are not in a position to help themselves.

Yet the merchant who continues this practice does not consider that he is robbing those whom he supplies. When asked why he charges such ridiculous prices, he will reply: "Well, I have to protect myself. I will lose a good bit on some, and I must charge all of them heavily so that I can make up on those that I do lose." These middlemen have been taking these profits so long that it will be very hard for them to reform. Even in a crisis like the present, some of them have been unable to put patriotism above pelf. If they would all accept cotton at 10 cents a pound in full payment for all debts due as of November 1, 1914, that perhaps would be about the fair way out of it for all concerned.

Some of our southern bankers have been patriotic, and have done everything possible to meet the situation.

Some country banks have hoarded their funds and jacked up interest rates unduly. But let us be honest enough to say that some of the banks in the reserve cities of the south have not done this, and many country banks likewise have done all that could be expected of them during this crisis. But this is not true of the mean, narrow-minded, close-fisted, sanctimonious money-lender, rural merchant or banker who for years has sucked up like a leech the fruits of the labor of the common people in his own neighborhood.

Oh, yes, our southern farmers have even more to contend with than Mr. Holleman so ably sets forth. If the present crisis wakes them up to realize the truth, every dollar of loss to cotton growers and spinners will yet yield a handsome income.

The scales are falling from the people's eyes. They will no longer be content to be led by the nose by a coterie of politicians and middlemen whose purpose is to "skin" the white man as they have the black.

Because the farmers of the south as never before are waking up to the situation is why Orange Judd Southern Farming has such confidence in the new era we now foresee.

The time is here for still more marked effort to fully bring about such changes. The movement is coming up through the people themselves.

All about them our people see conspicuous examples of farmers and their families who have risen above the dispiriting level of the many, and have joined the increasing ranks of what a few years ago were the few—men and women who by energy, health, thrift, gumption, vim, persistence, organization, courage and patriotism are gaining substantial homes, successful farms and a position of independence and leadership in their respective communities.

These are the makers of the new south, not the old type of shylocks and middlemen of whatever name who have so long sucked up the very life-blood of the people.

We know that we voice their sentiments and the aspirations of the whole south in declaring that the time has come for a new deal and a square deal. Disappointed by depending upon politicians, the legitimate agricultural and business interests of the south have been forced to realize that they must depend upon themselves. When an enlightened people thus grasp the great truth that self-help is the best help, already we, the said people, have taken the first step toward the better prosperity that shall be as permanent as it will be all-embracing.

Constitution 12-3-14

A STATE AWAKENING.

One of the remarkable indications of the awakening of Georgia to her opportunities is afforded by the discussion following the publication of an article by Mrs. Nellie Peters Black, in last Sunday's Constitution, on the apparent lack of home markets for Georgia oats, peavine hay and hogs. Several commission merchants of Atlanta, interviewed on Mrs. Black's charges with regard to oats and hay, disclose a peculiar opportunity and obligation for Georgia farm-

ers and the sources of agricultural education in this state.

Among these business men there was some diversity of opinion as to whether peavine hay would find a ready cash market in the city. But they were practically a unit in declaring that it was one of the best foods known for fattening. They agreed that stock fed it on the farm bring top market prices.

This bears out what The Constitution has numberless times asserted—that on each Georgia farm with anything approaching range space there should be as many beef cattle as the farmer can maintain, fattening for market. The verdict of these commission men, which is borne out by testimony from experts of the federal and state departments of agriculture, means that Georgia ought to be one of the greatest cattle states in the country. Moreover, Georgia should find a big market for this product in the as-yet-typical western cattle states.

The commission men warn the farmers that one reason there is no readier market for oats in Atlanta is that the Georgia farmer will not be as careful either about producing or putting up his product as the western farmer. This indictment has been brought before. It is one relatively easy of remedy. If our sources of agricultural education will steadily guide the farmer in the production of oats, and if the press and his own societies will persistently warn him about its wrapping, there should be no difficulty in finding here a market.

The things that stand out are: (1) There is a first-class market for Georgia peavine hay, marketing it through stock and, in some cases, direct. (2) Georgia can produce oats competing with the western variety. Those two are the only facts that matter. Once the circumstances are adjusted, the question of finding markets will adjust itself automatically.

In this connection, we are informed by state and federal sources that the laws touching the inspection of dressed hogs and beef are now more liberal than set forth by Mrs. Black, and should afford encouragement to the farmer. There is no federal or state inspection of meats on the farm. Only the express companies or the railroads are required to exact of the farmer a certificate to the effect that the animal was healthy when killed, and that the parts to be shipped are free from disease. In such cities as Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta, Macon, Columbus, etc., there are specific ordinances dealing with these subjects. But even here there is no insuperable barrier to a market, since the farmer can familiarize himself with the legal requirements of his market and comply with them.

In the matter of the marketing of small packages of meat, such as hams and bacon and sausage, one of our correspondents strikes the bull's-eye when he says:

"First, grow the right kind of goods. Then you can be absolutely sure of a market in the city if you **advertise.**"

Discussion of this range and nature is constructive. It is particularly appropriate upon the threshold of a season when the south must practice new lessons, or relearn old ones, in agriculture.

THE SOUTH'S LESSON FROM EUROPE'S CATACLYSM.

Constitution 7-6-14

The law of compensation is industriously at work reading for the entire south a tremendous and perhaps permanent benefit from the European war.

That benefit is the application to every county in the south of the doctrine:

1. Of raising our own foodstuffs.
2. Of patronizing home industries.

Had the south for the past twenty years been practicing these principles as assiduously as she has been raising cotton and progressing in manufactures, the European blight would not cast a shadow over one southern threshold.

The Constitution has published from many sources many solutions for the present emergency in the cotton situation. With these we do not deal at the present moment, other than to express the belief that if congress and congressmen "prove up" on their claims of devotion to their constituents, the crisis will be safely met. If congress fails, there is enough private resource and patriotism in the nation to take over the task.

That to one side. Let us concede, that as an understood part of next season's cotton program, there is to be a sharp reduction in acreage; how sharp cannot be determined until affairs in Europe crystallize more definitely.

Now, the next, or rather the first, desideratum is:

The sowing down of every spare acre in the south with food for man and beast. Let us not make just enough for ourselves. Let us create a surplus for the nation, and for Europe, which may still be warring when the crops are gathered in the fall of 1915. Every ear of corn, every blade of wheat, every bushel of oats, every bale of hay, every hog, every beef cattle, all the poultry products we can produce—

Will be in demand next year. Then whatever cotton brings, we shall have enough to feed ourselves and a surplus with which to feed other hungry peoples.

Georgia alone is sending out of the state each year many millions for feedstuffs, including pork and beef, that should be raised right here. **That obligation stands as a prior lien upon whatever price cotton brings this year. The suicidal fallacy of this policy was never more vividly emphasized than by the narrowing cotton markets in Europe this year.** If we do not learn the lesson of diversification to the distant roll of cannon and the tales of awful slaughter; if we do not find the need in the painful uncertainty that now overshadows the south, we never will.

Unlike the north, the east or the west the south is so favored by climate and soil as to be **a kingdom sufficient to itself.** Other sections must import foodstuffs. The south need not import a cent's worth of the staples of life.

Ordinary business ability would have dictated, first, the production of the foods to keep life going, and to keep the shadow of the mortgage down, **then, and only then,** the production of cotton as a cash crop.

Our short-sighted system of agriculture, for which everybody today is willing to shift responsibility, reverses the formula. We make cotton the summum bonum. The foodstuffs come a bad second. Cotton must carry practically the whole burden. How different the picture might have been.

Encouragingly, the recent years have witnessed a radical tendency to get away from this expensive furrow. The present crisis ought to make its abandonment permanent. Remember—**foodstuffs first, next year, and all you can plant of them. Then cotton, and not too much of it. The world can't eat cotton. It can and must eat food. The south can supply both.**

Patronizing of home industries comes a close second to diversification. Every dollar spent for the home-made article is a dollar kept at home, to do its expanding work here instead of elsewhere. Every dollar kept in the south is a dollar chipped off the balance we must send out of the south each year for all manner of articles, from furniture to pickles. Southern factories can and do produce goods of as good quality and at as reasonable a price as those elsewhere. The fact only **needs to be known.**

The eruption in Europe is going to do us a service. But it is certain we must meet opportunity, not to say the duty of self-preservation, fully half-way.

THAT COTTON OLIGARCHY.

Constitution 10-4-14

The evidence accumulates.

In a strong communication published by The Constitution, just a week ago, J. T. Holleman charged the existence of a cotton oligarchy in the south which is chiefly responsible for the demand of all-cotton production against diversification.

In a similarly pointed and pertinent communication from H. G. Hastings, published today, the charge is forcibly renewed. While Mr. Holleman has for years made extensive farm loans throughout the south, Mr. Hastings sells seed from Maryland to Texas, and beyond in both directions. This much we say to ilustrate that both of them are thoroughly familiar with their subject.

Mr. Hastings, like Mr. Holleman, charges and gives his reasons for the charge—

That there is a cotton oligarchy in the south, although he adopts the qualification that it may be an unconscious one.

He charges that 70 per cent of the farmers—the tenant farmers of the south—are absolutely forced to make cotton and nothing but cotton, by landlord, merchant and banker.

That the tenant farmer is charged exorbitant prices for supplies, leaving him no possible chance for material profit except in extraordinary price seasons, when his profits are absorbed by back credits.

That the system is one, although not so intended, to be compared with the system of slavery which existed in the south prior to the civil war.

That the tenant farmer, the "submerged seven-tenths of our producers," is effectively forbidden to grow his own food crops, because it is insisted that he buy them at exorbitant prices in cotton, when produced.

That, finally, the laws are made to protect the landlord, merchant and banker, and that there is no possibility of the tenant farmer reaching a position of independence.

Statements of this sort coming from two such well-qualified sources—and The Constitution has received innumerable communications approving Mr. Holleman's position—are worth thinking about.

Is it true that the majority of the men who, we have been led to believe, are the most independent, are the least so?

This is the statement of men of eminent authority. If it is true, there is not only a wide field for home missionary work in the agricultural south, but a subject for careful and intensive study on the part of our lawmakers.

Agriculture — 1914

Improvement of

"Generally speaking," the Italian farmer spends but a small per cent of his earnings, whereas a Negro spends every available cent he can earn, borrow or steal. Hence, from the standpoint of the merchant and plantation owner who runs a store, the Negro is valuable and the Italian almost valueless, measured by the amount each spends."

The foregoing opinion regarding the Italian and the Negro has been expressed by the United States Immigration Commission, which is a highly exaggerated statement, but it should not fail to arouse the Negro to do more serious thinking along economical lines. If the Italian is valueless because of what he does not spend and the Negro is valuable only because of what he spends, it is not hard to see that the Negro is worth more to everybody else than to himself, a thing for which he gets but little credit from God or man. The Negro must stop spending his money so freely and unwisely, if he is ever to win for himself a place of honor, respect and usefulness in the world. The old idea that we can't carry anything with us when we die, and therefore had as well have a "good time" while we are here, must go. It has held us down too long already. Let the Negro lay a foundation upon which his descendents may build.

ASA G. CANDLER AND THE COTTON SITUATION.

Upon first blush, the farmers of the South in general, and of Georgia in particular, thought that a Moses had arisen, or that a J. Pierpont Morgan had come back to life, when they read that Asa G. Candler, the Coca-Cola King was willing and ready to invest thirty million dollars in cotton. The cotton grower's heart leaped for joy, —they saw money advanced on their cotton at six per cent. interest, and an opportunity to hold that cotton until they could get what it was worth, —fifteen cents per pound.

The Independent in common with every other patriotic citizen and agency, was singing Candler praises; Candler anthems, and saying, "Truly a deliverer has come." But as we read each day the explanations purporting to come from the Coca-Cola King, we fear we shouted before the walls fell down; we fear we didn't understand the capitalist, or he was either playing to the galleries for notoriety. We doubted the ability of the Coca-Cola King to raise thirty million dollars. We doubt the ability of every bank in Atlanta advancing thirty million. We mean the combined effort of every bank in Atlanta would be taxed beyond its limit to advance thirty million dollars at six per cent on cotton. But, according to the newspapers, King Candler purposed to do it, alone and single handed. We know he has millions. Millions have been collected from the people for his drink, but we doubted his ability to command that much coin. And the latest information and news appearing in the same papers that announced the coming of the Commercial Messiah, confirms our opinion.

It develops now that Mr. Candler will only advance money to the customers of his correspondent banks. That is to say, banks out of the city, in the State, and possibly out of the State, that do business in Atlanta with Mr. Candler's bank, will be able to get money from Mr. Candler for that class of their customers who owe them. It develops that the customers of the Candler correspondent banks generally, will not be able to secure any part of the Candler millions. Only that part of the Candler correspondent banks' customers who owe the bank, will be able to get money from Candler; and they can only get money to pay their debt. Candler will take up the papers with his correspondent banks, and the correspondent bank will take your cotton and turn it over to Candler for the money you owe the bank. The farmer or cotton grower will not be benefited or see a dollar. Candler will make money at interest, six per cent., and will also get storage in the warehouse. His biggest take out will be for storage in the warehouse.

Your local bank in the country where you live, will borrow money from Candler, and you will pay the interest on it, to pay off the debt you owe the local bank. After all, it doesn't seem that Mr. Candler is helping many. And we stake our reputation, that instead of thirty million dollars, Mr. Candler will not have to spend a million dollars under the rules and restrictions he is throwing around his apparently generous and liberal proposition. The proposition looked beautiful to start with,—it looked like the farmers would be able to, especially in Georgia, to get thirty million dollars. But upon investigation, it is not a fact.

If John Brown in Crisp county owes the bank of Cordele four hundred dollars, and has cotton, the bank at Cordele will take John Brown's cotton and send it to Candler's warehouse, where John Brown will pay storage on it; Candler will advance the bank of Cordele the amount of indebtedness that John Brown owes, and John Brown will pay Candler the interest. So Candler will make it gwine and coming and John Brown will get nothing. The banks will have the use of Candler's money that he has on deposit with the correspondent banks. So you see just about how many of Candler's correspondence banks or customers will be reached or benefited. Just those who owe the bank and no others.

GEORGIA COMBED FOR GOOD HORSES

Stock Raisers of the South Have Fine Chance to Profit by Supplying Demand of English Government.

Cons Institution 9-19-14

That England has placed an order for 30,000 head of horses for its infantry and cavalry, to be distributed through Atlanta, Kansas City, Cincinnati and other markets, is information which is today causing stockmen here to comb the south in an effort to find suitable stock.

According to local brokers, the order means approximately $1,500,000 to southern farmers, $750,000 of which can be gathered in by Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee stock raisers if they will place their surplus stock on the market at a reasonable price.

Inquiries at the National and Union stock yards Friday brought out the information that, although buyers have scoured the entire state of Georgia for horses, only one carload of twenty-three head was shipped to Cincinnati and out of the twenty-three only eighteen passed inspection. They were immediately shipped to Toronto, Canada and from that point will be transported to England.

Could Fill Supply.

"Georgia could supply 10,000 or 15,000 head through the Atlanta market if the farmers and stock raisers will sell," said a representative of J. V. Patterson & Co., located at the Miller Union stock yards. "But they don't want to sell stock which would be acceptable to the English government and those who do want to sell have apparently heard of the buying movement for the English government and want prohibitive prices for the horses."

Atlanta stock dealers declare that there is no truth in the report that the English have placed a large order for mules. As a matter of fact, they say, Atlanta dealers alone could supply the other markets with 50,000 head within a week after the placing of the order.

There are hundreds of mules in the yards right now, and an order for 10,000 at the average price of $240 to $250 a head would mean an investment of $2,500,000 by the English government.

"Evidently England's experiment with mules in the Transvaal was not a success," said another dealer, "that if the war keeps up much longer there will be a good English demand for mules to be used for draught purposes to move infantry and artillery corps."

Farmers Want Too Much.

Horses suitable for army purposes—stock which is inspected in accordance with cavalry and infantry requirements—are worth not more than $135 to $140 a head, according to dealers. In almost every community where buyers have attempted to get possession of surplus stock farmers and stock breeders have asked from $150 to $200 a head for horses. Dealers say that at such figures they cannot hope to put Georgia horses on the market. In Alabama and Tennessee they have also met with but scant encouragement from owners.

Friday it was reported that a carload of horses was being shipped from south Georgia to a big house in Atlanta, but the report was denied. A representative stated that his buyer had informed him that he was not able to connect with more than twelve head, and that the twelve were headed for Atlanta.

Jacob W. Patterson, of Patterson & Co., spent last week in Cincinnati and is now in Toronto, Canada, looking after the horses shipped from his yards. His representatives here deny the report that he received an order for 10,000 head of mules and 1,000 horses, and other dealers assert that the order placed by the English government will be supplied by any and every dealer who can buy and ship quick.

Dealers here say that if the farmers will sell their surplus stock at fairly reasonable prices Georgia will be in a position to supply the bulk of the demand from England. If not, the farmers and stockraisers of the west will supply more than two-thirds of the number required and the money which is being paid immediately upon inspection at the point of shipment will be kept out of this territory.

(From Columbia, S. C., State.)

The Jots in the Cotton

Twenty thousand out of sixty-five thousand land owning farmers are doing what they can to promote condition of affairs in South Carolina, what does he see

He sees about ten per cent of the fifty per cent of them landless. They are mistaken men, they are sadly wrong, but it is a fact that they white men illiterate and more than

When one of them considers the races and who wish to see it established in politics and in social life this equality. It is with facts that we are concerned.

In the Northern part of this country are a few, a very few, scholarly and earnest men, some of them rich, who believe in the equality of the negroes.

Ability to read and write or ownership of property taxed at $300 the qualifications for suffrage.

The negroes sending larger numbers of children to school than the whites are sending.

Acres of land owned by negroes increasing in number while acres owned by whites decrease.

Negroes qualifying for suffrage in rapidly increasing numbers both by acquiring education and acquiring lands.

The habit of going to school less general among whites in the white counties than among negroes in counties having negro majorities.

The conviction that restrictions on suffrage adopted in 1895 operating as a powerful incentive to negroes to learn and to save.

Negroes listening to their wise leaders who preach and teach that the man who owns property and has trained intelligence can take care of himself regardless of his color.

White men of South Carolina refusing to enact compulsory school attendance laws, so allowing illiteracy to breed illiteracy.

Finally, he sees white men maintaining a primary election system to which all white men, regardless of education or property, are admitted and which takes the place of the general elections, so that the illiterate and propertyless white man ceases to care whether he is a qualified elector or not.

Seeing these things in South Carolina, the Northern fanatic, believing in race equality aware that race problems do not settle themselves in a generation, sits patiently and waits, smiling that South Carolina thinking to perpetuate white ascendancy, adopts and practices the only policy that might, in time, endanger it.

To exclude any white man from the primary would be to administer a bitter dose to him. Therefore, don't administer it to him—though it would save his children from the ignorance that blinds his father.

The truth remains that from no good motive, South Carolina is doing more for her negroes than for her white people.

COLORED RACE PROGRESSING.

E. C. Branson, professor of rural economics at the State Normal school, Athens, Ga., recently addressed the Southern Sociological congress on the subject of negro progress. What he had to say is gratifying to those who hope to see the American negro elevated in education, citizenship and ambition. If Professor Branson is right, the American negro is working out his own salvation, not in the town, but in the country. In the southern states in 1910 the ratio of negro farm workers ran far ahead of that of negro population in general. For instance, in South Carolina, the negroes were 55 per cent of the population, but 68 per cent of the farm workers. In Mississippi during the last census period negro farmers increased at a rate nearly two and one-half times greater than the rate of increase for negro population in general. In Georgia the difference was even more pronounced. The drift everywhere among the negroes of the south is from the city to the country.

Southern cities that between 1865 and 1880 were in a way of being overwhelmed by the negros, now show in

some cases, a diminishing ratio. In the south there are about one hundred thousand negroes engaged in teaching, preaching, the practice of medicine and law and in business enterprises. These are, of course, upward-looking negroes. But on the farms of the south there are 2,500,000 negroes, and most of these are looking upward, too. In the farm regions the southern negro is achieving a new economic status. He is rapidly rising out of farm tenanc into farm ownership. He is becomin to the south what the "peasant pro prietor" is to France and Belgium. H is finding that bank books and barn are more important at present tha ballot boxes. Nearly one-fourth of al the negro farmers in the south own th farms they cultivate. This rural prop erty is valued at nearly $500,000,000 The Russian serfs, after fifty years o freedom, have not made greater head way. They have not done so well, in deed, in their conquest of illiteracy.

During the last census period the negroes of the south increased less than 10 per cent in population, but they increased 17 per cent in the ownership of farms, against a 12 per cent increase of white farm owners. The negro farmer now owns $37,000,000 worth of farm implements and tools, $177,000,000 worth of farm animals and $273,000,000 worth of farm lands and buildings. In 1880 Georgia negroes owned 580,664 acres of farm land, but in 1910 they owned 1,607,970 acres. Negro property upon the tax lists of Georgia now amounts in value to $34,000,000. The facts show a dwindling ratio of negro population in every southern state except Arkansas and Oklahoma; a decreasing ratio in the cities of the south, but an increasing ratio in the farming regions of every southern state except Louisiana.

HOG RAISING AS A CASH CROP.

The Richmond Journal 4-13-14

All over the South, the "silver fleece" has become a "white elephant" on the hands of the farmers and everywhere they are getting together and resolving to invest their time and land, next year, in some thing which can be easily con ted into cash or immediate use.

When the farmer has rais lk, butter, eggs, pork, vegetable n, fruit and such things, he has something which will afford him direct or cash value and if for some reason he does not desire to sell, they are available for his own consumption without leaving the farm.

With a wonderfully prophetic insight tempered with prudence and common-sense, Dr. Booker T. Washington, in a recent open letter sent broadcast over the South, argued the colored people to devote their energies to the raising of products on their farms which have immediate and direct cash value rather than take a gamblers chance on too much cotton whose value is abstract, potential and entirely dependent upon the "frenzied" fancies of capital.

As is usually the case in such instances, white people are quicker to grasp the significance and importance of such an idea, than their less fortunate brothers for whose benefit Dr. Washington proposed it. In commenting on Dr. Washington's raise-a-pig movement, The Lakeland (Fla.) News sees it as valuable for all the people. It says: "an excellent idea, and it would have even greater excellence if this raise-a-pig movement should prove catching and take in all the people, white and colored. 'In pig signo vinces' would be a proud slogan under which to battle against the forces of hard times."

The Staunton (Va.) News likewise takes a broad, comprehensive view and says: "This is excellent advice, and white people might follow it with equal profit. The South has given itself up to cotton in a large measure and is now suffering because cotton will not buy the things it usually buys. A little less cotton and a little more meat will add greatly to the wealth and prosperity of the South.

The Savannah (Ga.) News adds this valuable thought: One pig or even two or three pigs, could pick up a good living about the premises of the average Negro farmer without expense to him and would be building flesh that would bring him a comfortable sum in the killing season."

By far, the most postive proof of Dr. Washington's wisdom in this matter is expressed in the following news item from Texas, showing how the progressive white people of the South appreciate the value of hog-raising at this time. The article says in part.

"Secretary George A. Toolan of the San Benito Commercila Club, has advised the Texas Industrial Congress that a new approach to the proposition of growing hogs on farms as a 'cash crop' has been made under the leadership of Mr. R. O. Barron, a progressive farmer of San Benito. Without waiting for the banks to furnish credit Mr. Barron purchased a carload of thoroughbred Duroc Jersey sows from the stockyards at Fort Worth and had them shipped to San Benito. Then he carefully selected a number of worthy farmers and leased them one or more sows each, as the circumstances appeared to justify. By the terms of the lease, the lessee agreed to care properly for the sows, had all been bred before shipment, and at the end of three months to return the sows and one-half of the pigs to Mr. Barron, keeping the other half for himself. The introduction of hog-raising on a larger scale around San Benito has not only furnished every grower with meat but has also provided a 'cash crop' that wartime conditions will only render more remunerative.

ABUNDANT WINTER CROPS SHOULD BE PLANTED AT ONCE

There Is Urgent Necessity For Raising Grain Crops, Says Commissioner Kolb

Advertiser 9-13-14

Abundant winter crops should be planted now by the farmers of Alabama, and the hope and promise of the farming future in Alabama depends upon diversification according to the weekly bulletin of the State Department of Agriculture issued yesterday at the office of Captain Reuben F. Kolb, Commissioner.

Early oats, clovers and wheat should be planted this winter by the farmers, and there is an urgent necessity for raising grain crops according to the bulletin.

"The shortage of last year's corn crop, together with the depressing condition of the cotton market makes the planting of a large acreage of grass and grains a thing of prime importance," says the bulletin.

Other Crops Necessary.

The cotton situation may be summed in the expression what will we do with it?" While the financiers, business men, and spinners, together with the leading exponents of the farming interest are wrestling over the proposition, it is incumbent upon those whom the situation most vitally affects to turn their attention to other things of present moment. This bulletin will be directed to impressing upon the farmers the necessity of planting an abundant oat and winter cover crop.

The shortage of last year's corn crop, together with the depressing condition of the cotton market makes the planting of a large acreage in grasses and grains a thing of prime importance. Particularly does this fact appeal at this season, for we are on the eve of planting time for most of these products. Already many farmers have started their fall breaking and the sowing of early oats and clovers will soon become general. Planting should not take place too early because of the liability of the oats going to seed before frost if the fall is open and unusually warm. In Alabama the seeding can usually take place if the soil is in proper condition any time from September 1st to November 1st, but usually the best time is during October and November. Care should be taken to treat the oats for smut before planting and the best variety of seed should be chosen.

Quality of Seed.

The qualities of seed that should be most considered in selecting a variety for planting, are resistance of diseases and insect enemies, adaptabilities to local conditions, weight of grain, kind and amount of hull and the size and color of grain. These are platitudes generally known by the farmers, but it is opportune to repeat them now.

The European war has had the effect of restricting the supply of Crimson clover which comes from Germany and for this reason and this reason alone a smaller acreage in that crop will be planted, however, previous to the war the question of a large planting of Crimson Clover had been agitated and great interest and enthusiasm created in it and its planting, an dthe result will be recognized in a large area devoted to it for the coming year. This is in line with a modern demand of progressive farming and it is bound to be attendant of splendid results in the crop economy of Alabama.

One demonstrator reports that in his section conditions are causing farmers to plant more clover and oats and vetch than ever before, and this statement is typical of what is occurring elsewhere. Of course it is understood that in advocating a larger planting of other things than cotton, that wheat, corn, and in fact all crop diversities suited to our soils are included. The hope and promise of our farming future in Alabama depends upon this diversification of crops that our experience with cotton this year has made an inevitable necessity.

RURAL CREDIT AND THE NEGRO

The Journal & Tribune 4-4-'14

There is a plan before Congress for the establishment of a system of rural credit by the Federal Government for the benefit of the farmers of the country. The feature of this plan that is interesting some of the Congressmen from the Southern States and which seems to be something of a difficult problem to solve, is how to manipulate the plan so as to prevent the Negro from profiting equally with the white man. The question is debated as to which is better, to put the control in the hands of the Federal Government or in the States. Southern Congressmen who oppose the Negro want the control in the hands of the States. Congressman Small, of North Carolina, in a letter to Mr. Clarence Poe, made public a few days ago, says:

"I note carefully your suggestion that the control should be vested in the States rather than in the Federal Government and largely because you think the Negro will receive an undue benefit in the extension of such credit. I am in sympathy with your positon."

It would be interesting to know just what Congressman Small and Mr. Poe mean by "undue benefit" to the Negro in the extension of the rural credits. Do they mean that it would be and "undue benefit" for the Negro to receive the credit or the same conditions as those on which white men received it? These are the only conditions on which Negro farmers desire to receive it. They do want it in this way and it is hard to see how extending it to them on any other conditions would be just. The Negro desires no discrimination in his favor and no white man ought to desire to discriminate against him. White men should not feel that the way to get along or to insure progress for their race is to prevent the progress of Negroes. It is very short sighted statesmanship on the part of the Congressman and the Editor to think that any real progress can com in this way. The Negro does not want any discrimination in his favor. All he wants is an equal chance. Can't white men be as generous as black men? Mr. Poe supports his contention for discrimination against black men by citing facts which go to show that white tenants are increasing in the South more rapidly than Negro tenants. Thesefacts may be an argument for arousing white men, but they do not constitute an argument for being unjust to Negroes.—American Presbyterian.

Agriculture – 1914

Improvement of

From foregoing card

"Does Cotton Oligarchy, etc.?"

8/27/14

ers about their dwellings, no trees to shade them from the sun, consumed by the summer's heat and chilled by the winter's cold, no lawns about their houses, no garden fences, and with the accursed cotton plant crowding the very threshold of their rude dwellings and thrusting its limbs into their very windows, their lot is indeed pitiable. Their sons and daughters come to manhood and womanhood, depart from the farm and are lost to them in some distant community. Finally, when their fight is over, they are laid to rest in the rude churchyards of the country, others take their places and continue the fight. They have established no permanent home, their kith and kin are scattered far and wide, and the places that knew them once know them no more forever. I have no word of criticism for men like these. I know them, I have lived among them, I sprang from them. Who shall undertake to lead these men out of the wilderness of their troubles? Men whom they elevate to high offices in the state and national government are ever ready to teach them politics, but they are not prepared to help them solve their problems. A fearful responsibility rests at this time upon men in authority and men in high offices. Will they meet it?

The Negro's Part.

And let us consider the negroes. You know, there are about one million in the state of Georgia. The system of all-cotton and no food stuffs entails more suffering upon the negroes than upon anyone else. Theirs is, indeed, a struggle for existence at all times, and especially at a time like this. It goes without saying, that if anybody shall go hungry and naked, it will be the negroes. When I was a boy, forty years ago, on my father's farm near Macon, although the war had ceased but a few years before, there existed a real sympathy between the farmer and the negroes on his plantation. My father saw to it that every negro tenant on his farm kept his cow, a few pigs, chickens, and had a potato patch and a garden. How is it now? A Georgia state senator, in my office a few days ago, discussed the question about which I am now writing. He owns a large plantation, although he does not live on it, but is a practicing lawyer in a neighboring town, and stated that he did not permit a single negro family on his place to have any of the things which my father insisted upon in the old days. When I asked him for his reason for this, he said that the negroes would steal his corn to feed their stock upon. This custom is almost universal. Most of the negroes of the state live on farms, and day by day they are drifting further away from the white people. Who is responsible for it? In my opinion, the white men are solely responsible. These ignorant people are left on these plantations, are instructed the sun; well filled barns, the smokehouse with all the good things of the olden days. And cotton—yes, the cotton that enriches and not enslaves; cotton that is not the king, but the servant of him that grows it. We had such homes once in Georgia. Shall we ever see them again? Out of such homes in the olden days sprang the men and women who were the strength and glory of the state. Why may we not build them again!

But someone may ask what solution I have to offer. It is impossible, Mr. Editor, for me or you, or for any other man to enter into the details of the solution of this great question. We can only call attention to the situation and leave to others the working out of our salvation. My purpose in writing this communication is to attract the attention of some man big enough and strong enough to arouse the people. Henry W. Grady knew nothing of architecture. He had no knowledge of house building. He would have been unable to lay the foundations, to erect the walls or to put on the roof. Perhaps he would have known little of anything that related to the erection of any sort of a building. But the files of The Atlanta Constitution will show that he wrote one editorial which so stirred the people of this state that, in a night, as it were, the Soldiers' home sprang into existence. It was not for him to enter into the details necessary to erect this building which has proven such a blessing to the veterans in gray. His mission was to see what other people could not see and to state it in "thoughts that breathe and words that burn." Having done that, he was content to leave the actual work to other hands. So, I hope that some man in the south will rise to the occasion and strike the note of freedom for our people—some Grady, who shall tell us again that "The citizen standing in the doorway of his home—contented on his threshold—his family about his hearthstone—while the evening of a well spent day closes in scenes and sounds that are dearest—he shall save the republic when the drum tap is futile and the barracks are exhausted"—some Dickens, who shall once again break down the prison doors and set the captives free.

J. T. HOLLEMAN.

Atlanta, Ga.

Agriculture - 1914
& Improvement of

Does Cotton Oligarchy Grip South and Defy Plans for Diversification and Relief?

8-27-14

--- I. T. Holleman

MR. HOLLEMAN'S COMMUNICATION.

The following communication from J. T. Holleman, of Atlanta, is an intensely interesting discussion of the situation confronting the south today. Probably no man in the south is better posted concerning farm conditions than Mr. Holleman, who, for more than a quarter of a century, has dealt in farm lands not only in every part of Georgia, but in every part of the south, and through him millions of dollars have been lent on southern farm lands.

In negotiating these loans Mr. Holleman has had to make close individual research with specific study of conditions surrounding every loan. He is thoroughly in touch with farm conditions in every part of the south. What he says, therefore, as bearing upon the present situation makes an exceedingly interesting contribution to the literature on the subject.

Editor Constitution: It is high time that some man rose up big enough and brave enough to tell the truth about the situation. I have the courage to do it, but I know that I am not big enough to do it as it should be done. I had hoped that some man would come forward and tear away the mask from our boasted prosperity and leave exposed the hideous skeleton in all its realty. This was the hope that actuated me in my communication to you of August 29. We are not a prosperous people, we have never been a prosperous people and we never will be a prosperous people so long as we base our prosperity solely upon the production of cotton. It is time we ceased to dignify and to glorify a crop, the over-production of which is a curse upon the state and upon the entire south.

We should meet the issue squarely. The cotton exchanges should be opened as soon as it can safely be done, and every man who has cotton in his possession and who owes money should put it on the market, sell it for what it will bring and pay his debts. Those men who are not in debt and who do not need to sell can afford to hold their cotton. The government should get behind the banks, and the government is behind the banks, to the fullest extent to which it can legitimately go. The all important question is the reduction of the production of cotton in the future and the production of food for man and beast. We should leave to the banks and to congress, acting through the banks, the matter of taking care of the present crop of cotton, and turn our attention to the matter of preventing an excessive production of cotton in the future, and to the matter of producing home supplies. We have heard a great many times that if a wall were built around the state of Georgia her people could still live in comfort and independence. The governor of Georgia, in an interview published in one of our papers two weeks ago, made this statement. Well, we have the stone wall. It was built by the German emperor, built without a moment's warning and thrown around us in a night. Where, now, is our boasted independence? Instead of comfort and independence we find panic and despair. If, indeed, it were possible to throw around this state a real wall that would shut us off entirely from all communication with the outside world, I believe that every man, woman and child, and that all the horses and cattle in this state, would die of starvation before another crop could be harvested. I believe that any statistician could gather the facts and figures and verify what I say. It is a well-known fact that only one state east of the Mississippi river now produces as much food stuff as it consumes, and that state is not Georgia, but Delaware. The governme census shows that there are not many live stock in the state of Geo gia today as there was in 1860, a though our population is three tim as great. Here, then, is our weakness

Who Produces.

Now, if we are to undertake th problem of reducing the production cotton, we must know who produc it. The trouble began in 1860, and hope it will have its ending in 1914. war started it and I trust a war wi end it. It is well known to all intell gent men that when the southern so diers returned to their homes after th civil war they had nothing left but their lands. I heard the Hon. N. Hammond say on one occasion that im mediately after the war he traveled horseback from Augusta to Macon He said that on that ride he saw not one living thing. Not a man, nor a woman, nor a child. Not a horse, notable, made up from the exact figures a cow, no hogs, no sheep—nothing that had life. Everywhere he was confront- ed by ruin and desolation. The condition of the south at this time seemed hopeless indeed. The wisest and brav- est men were staggered by the situa- tion. Fortunately, in every town and village there were a few men more or less prominent who still knew people in Baltimore and New York. They opened negotiations with their friends in these cities, bought goods of all sorts on credit and began to sell them out to the farmers on credit. These goods were not simply things to wear and things to cultivate their farms with. They included things to eat. The men on the farms had to buy everything under an arrangement of this sort. They had to buy their farming implements, their mules, their seed for planting, their clothing and whatever they needed to live upon themselves, and whatever they needed for the negroes they employed upon their farms. That method is in existence at the present day. The vast sums of money that farmers have paid to these middlemen for things that they should have grown on their own farms would stagger the imagination. These middlemen necessarily became wealthy and their children and their grandchildren are wealthy today as a result of the money made by their fathers and grandfathers in supplying the farmers of this state and of the south with what they needed. Naturally, the men in the cities and the towns and the villages engaged in the sort of business have described began themselves to accumulate lands, by foreclosure or by outright purchase, and these men are today the large land owners of the state and the large cotton producers. In every county you will find them. They own the banks, the fertilizer plants, the oil mills, the warehouses and big supply stores and all the important lines of business. They sell the farmer his agricultural implements, his fertilizers, his mules, all that he and his laborers wear and all that he and his laborers eat. They also represent non-residents, who own large tracts of land, and they control these lands and dictate what shall be planted on them. They are also in politics, they are members of the legislature, they are active in all elections, they have their candidates for all the county offices, they help to elect the mayors of their towns, the solicitors of the city courts, the solicitors general, the county judges, the judges of the superior court, the congressmen, the governor and the United States senators. Their sons and daughters throng the colleges of the state. And I will say just here that it is not my purpose to attack these men, or to say anything unkind in regard to them. They are the very flower of the state. Such progress as we have made has come through them. But they are the producers of the cotton crops, and the question before us is to ascertain who it is that produces this very crop. These are the men who do it.

Some Georgia Counties.

The United States census department at Washington has just issued a bulletin dealing with the ownership of city and country homes in Georgia. I have noticed these bulletins appearing in twenty-seven of the country weeklies that came to my office last week. I call your attention to the following table, made up from the exact figures contained in this bulletin of the census department:

County.	Number. of Homes.	Occupied by Tenants.	Occupied by Owners.
Baker	1,474	546	928
Ben Hill	994	446	548
Brooks	2,531	1,493	1,038
Bulloch	3,454	1,912	1,542
Calhoun	1,415	1,176	239
Catoosa	1,014	463	551
Coffee	1,819	814	1,005
Colquitt	2,200	1,047	1,153
Columbia	1,894	1,484	410
Dougherty	1,028	916	112
Elbert	2,910	2,140	770
Gordon	2,407	1,435	972
Haralson	1,821	864	957
Jackson	1,802	1,495	307
Newton	2,320	1,819	501
Pike	2,435	1,828	607
Pulaski	2,746	2,060	686
Putnam	1,992	1,672	320
Randolph	2,181	1,641	540
Richley	791	584	207
Spalding	1,620	1,194	426
Stewart	1,470	1,202	268
Taliaferro	1,365	1,121	244
Terrell	2,634	2,298	336
Toombs	1,328	720	608
Upson	1,651	1,219	432
Whitfield	1,737	840	897
Totals	51,033	34,429	16,604

It will be seen from the foregoing able, which is merely indicative of the conditions in all the other counties, that in these twenty-seven counties here are 51,033 farm homes, that 34,- 429 of these farm homes are occupied per cent of the farms in these twenty- seven counties are occupied by tenants. These are the farms that are producing the cotton. It would be interesting to take a particular county and find out the name and address of the owners of these rented farms. I wish Mr. John D. Walker, of Sparta, and Mr. A. E. Barnett, of Washington, would undertake to do this in their own counties. In your paper of the 9th instant these gentlemen take issue with me as to what I said in my communication of August 29. It would be very illuminating to the public to know exactly the ownership of these rented farms in the state of Georgia.

Far-Off Landlords.

You must not fall into the error of thinking that the owners of these rented farms live in the neighborhood. They do not. They live in Atlanta, Savannah, Macon, Augusta, Columbus and in all of the other towns and cities in the state. Indeed, they may be found in New York and Washington and Baltimore and in many other far-distant places. They are all Georgians, but they have abandoned these farms, rented them out to poor white folks and negroes and are living elsewhere upon the cotton rents which they obtain. The owners of these rented farms are also bankers, merchants, supply men, liverymen, warehousemen, fertilizer men and other men in similar lines of business in all the cities, towns and villages of the state. Their one idea in reference to these farms is to see that they produce every bale of cotton possible. If one of these owners lives too far away to look after renting and to attend to the gathering of the crop and the collection of the rent, some local man is an agent for the purpose. This local man is certain to be one of the prominent business men in the city, the town or the village nearest the farm. This local agent, of course, looks first to making a good rent contract for the owner. When that point is accomplished, then he sees to it that, in some way or other, the handling of all the cotton produced on that farm should come through his store or his bank. He sees to it that all the fertilizers that are bought for this farm, all the mules that are purchased for this farm, all the farming implements that are used on this farm and all the supplies that go to the tenants on this farm are handled by him. His only idea is to make the farm produce the cotton and he will attend to everything needed on the farm, get rents for the owner and make a commission or a sales profit on everything that is bought for the farm or sold from the farm.

Farmer Helpless.

There is a great hue and cry going up now looking to the reduction of the cotton crop for next year. Farmers are urged to cut down their crops. Farmers are urged to hold meetings and attend to this matter. Farmers are urged to plant something on their lands that will go to feed themselves and their families and their stock. These farmers that the newspapers are talking about are not the ones who control the production of cotton at all. If you want to get at the situation, you must call a meeting of the owners of these rented farms, and their local agents in the various cities, towns and villages, and the men who buy and sell what goes on and what goes away from the farm. In a convention of these people you might accomplish something. As a matter of fact, these men have been in convention already, but the newspapers did not realize it. These are the people who are crying loudest for help in these dark days. You will notice that the various meetings that have been held are not made up of men who are actually working on the farms but have been made up of bankers, merchants, warehousemen, fertilizer men, mule dealers and people of this sort. They find their occupation gone when cotton has no value. They admit everything except that they themselves are responsible for the enormous cotton crops that have been produced for years in the south. They see an end to all their plans. With the cotton crop eliminated their various lines of business vanish. The farmer who raises his own supplies at home has no use for these men. With the cotton crop gone these men have nothing to do, because of their business training and of their business enterprises being based solely on cotton. They know that real farming cannot be conducted by them. To be a real farmer they will have to go out in the country and live on the farms and look after the cultivation of the land, the growing of the grain and hay, the raising of live stock. This sort of farming requires constant and intelligent attention. Cotton farming can be done by any sort of a poor white tenant and any sort of an ignorant negro. All these poor tenants and negroes need is to have a little direction from town in the springtime, an arrangement by which all they eat and all their stock eats is furnished to them and they can produce the cotton and carry it into town in the fall, where the lord of the manor will be ready to take it and sell it and pocket the lion's share and let the poor white tenant and negro tenant have just enough to keep him alive until next year's crop. These men give no thought of the building up of the land, but milk it from year to year of every ounce of cotton it will produce. Stronger than the grasp of the mailed hand of the German emperor is the clutch of these men upon the agricultural interests of the south.

Real Farmers.

Now, there are in every county a few real farmers. You can count them in each county on your ten fingers. They are no more disturbed by the war in Europe than they would be by the eruption of the volcano of Vesuvius. They are not concerned as to whether they can sell or not their cotton crop of the year 1914. If they get the price they want, they sell it. If not, they pile it up under the oak trees in their front yards and let it stay there. Their farms are in good shape, they have plenty to eat themselves, plenty of food for their stock, and the negroes and white laborers upon their farms are well fed, well clothed and quite contented. Their houses are well built and comfortable, their farms are well fenced, their lands are well cultivated, and they are not ashamed to live in the country. Splendid mules and horses, fine herds of cattle, flocks of sheep, fat hogs and chickens and ducks and turkeys, all the things that went to make up the old-fashioned southern home. They have orchards and vegetable gardens and are literally living in the land of milk and honey. There are still such farmers left in Georgia and the south, but they are very few. We need not concern ourselves greatly about the real farmers, the independent farmers of Georgia and the south. In my opinion they number possibly 10 per cent of the farming population. They have demonstrated the fact that they can take care of themselves, in good times and bad times, in times of

peace and in times of war. I have already shown that 70 per cent of our farms are occupied by tenants. This leaves about 20 per cent more of the farms unaccounted for. These are occupied by owners, who are small farmers, who have never reached the point of independence and who follow exactly the same system of farming that is followed by the 70 per cent making up the tenant farmers. At one time, in discussing Mexico, President Wilson referred to the downtrodden people of that country as the "submerged 85 per cent." Well, we have this submerged class in our country, but you will notice that I have raised the percentage. I put it at 90 per cent. About 10 per cent of our farmers are independent, 20 per cent are small white farmers owning their lands, and 70 per cent are tenant farmers. Undoubtedly the tenant class, making up the 70 per cent, are submerged. Undoubtedly this 70 per cent has carried down with it the 20 per cent of white owners of small farms, as they are not sufficiently strong in numbers to escape the influence of the other 70 per cent.

Mr. Charles S. Barrett, president of the Farmers' Union, has struggled heroically for many years in an effort to decrease cotton production and increase food production. Has he succeeded? Mr. Barrett himself will tell you that he has utterly failed. Why has he failed? Mr. Barrett certainly has great influence in the Farmers' Union, as the members of this organization have re-elected him year after year to the presidency. I have often wondered how he explains to himself and to his intimate friends his failure in the great fight he has made along these lines. I can tell him what the trouble has been. Indeed, a careful reading of what I have already said in this article fully explains Mr. Barrett's failure. The members of the Farmers' Union are not the men who are responsible for the production of the large cotton crops we make. Mr. Barrett has been levelling his fire in the wrong direction. The ten or a dozen independent farmers in each county care very little about the Farmers' Union, because they succeed without it. These farmers amount to about 10 per cent of the total farm owners. The 70 per cent of tenant farmers can no more control the production of cotton than the army of automobile chauffeurs can control the output of cars from the various factories of the country. The 20 per cent of farmers who own their farms, but who follow the lead of the other 70 per cent and plant nothing but cotton, are the ones who make up the membership of the Farmers' Union. They are hopelessly in the minority in the farming population, they know nothing but cotton planting and follow blindly the customs that have existed in this state for years. In other words, the men who are responsible for the excessive production are not only not members of the Farmers' Union, they are not eligible to membership. Bankers, merchants, owners of oil mills, cotton factories and fertilizer plants, rich lawyers and wealthy physicians, superior court judges, members of congress and other classes of large land owners are not and cannot be members of the Farmers' Union. Before Mr. Barrett can influence these men and thereby curtail the production of cotton, he would be compelled to let down the bars and modify the restrictions in reference to membership in the union.

Where Remedy Lies.

I have shown you where the responsibility lies for the excessive production of cotton. I have pointed out the men who are responsible for it. The remedy does not lie with the men who are actually at work in the fields producing cotton. It lies with the classes of men whom I have endeavored to describe in this article. It used to be said that a dozen men could get together in New York city and say what should be done with every prominent financial interest and with all the big enterprises in the country. Fortunately great progress has been made in the last few years toward putting an end to this condition. High finance is not so much in evidence as it was a few years ago. But the same principles are involved in the question I am discussing now. Twenty-five men could have a meeting in almost any county in this state and adopt a resolution to cut the cotton acreage in half, and if they themselves complied with the resolution and brought all their influence to bear to carry it out, the acreage would be reduced one-half. Indeed, there are counties where one or two men can do this, so absolutely and completely do they dominate the business and farming operations of their county. The question of reducing the acreage, therefore, can be comprehended. We know who is responsible and we can form some idea of how to reach the responsible parties. But the question of increasing the supply of foodstuffs is a most serious matter. It requires intelligence to successfully produce grain and hay, to successfully raise live stock and to successfully supply the farm and the home with all the things that are necessary for man and beast. Any sort of a white man and all the negroes can go on one of these big plantations and grow cotton, under the supervision of the owners and agents of non-resident owners living in the towns, cities and villages. But when you come to handle live stock, they need attention morning, noon and night. Every member of the family must take a hand. Intelligence is necessary, and by this I do not mean education obtained from school books and school teachers. I mean that intelligence which comes from thought, from exercising economy and from close attention to detail. Furthermore, this sort of farming means that the work must extend from January to January. You know your cotton farmers only work about half the year. Indeed, the owner of the farm finds it unnecessary to visit his cotton plantation more than two or three times a year. The men who are actually doing the work on the farm are engaged only at certain seasons. But the farmer who undertakes to break away from the all-cotton system and to look after all the other things that should be produced on his plantation will have to work just as hard as do the people who live in the cities. This is why a great many people hesitate. Cotton farming is easy. The other sort of farming means labor and thought and constant attention and care. But while cotton farming impoverishes and dwarfs the people, this other sort of farming will build them up, make them more intelligent and render them absolutely independent. And, speaking of education, leads me to call attention to another great fact.

We flatter ourselves that year by year we are expending so much money upon our public school system that education must be increasing, not only in the cities, but in the rural districts, and that the beneficial effects of increasing educational facilities will finally solve all our problems. No greater mistake was ever made. What do the words, education, school houses, teachers and colleges mean to the white farmers of this state and of the south? They mean nothing in the world except the opportunity for their sons and daughters to fit themselves to get away from the farm, to go into the towns and cities and be able to make a comfortable living. This and this only is what education means in the cotton farming districts of the south.

A Great Opportunity.

It seems to me that the leading men of this state have now the greatest opportunity that ever came to them, to take hold of this situation and lead the people out of the wilderness. When I speak of leaders, I do not mean merely men of financial positions, not merely editors and other leaders of thought; I mean men who now are occupying high and responsible positions in the government of this state and of the south. This question should find its way into our state capitol and should stir up the men who occupy the offices there. What nobler and greater work could the governor of a great state find than the work of taking hold vigorously of the conditions which now exist and showing the people how to free themselves? I know that it has not been the custom of the south, or in Georgia, for the governor to concern himself about such matters as these, but I can see no reason why he should not do so. I know that secretaries of state, state treasurers, state comptrollers and other state officers have been accustomed to put a very narrow construction upon their duties, and to confine themselves to very narrow channels. Even our commissioners of agriculture seem powerless to grasp our present situation, seem unable to influence the farming interests and, to my mind, fall far short of their duties and responsibilities.

Let it not be understood that I and men like me have taken up this subject hastily and are considering it simply because of the war in Europe. A great many men have been seriously concerned about this matter for a good many years. In 1912 the charge was made by Mr. H. G. Hastings, of this city, that the proceeds of our entire cotton crop were required to pay for the foodstuffs consumed in this state, and many hundreds of thousands of dollars more. That charge was bitterly denied, but has never been disproved. What sort of a state government have we, when a charge like this cannot be either verified or disproved? It was this statement by Mr. Hastings that set me thinking. For many years I have realized that something was radically wrong, and I became convinced, and am still convinced, that Mr. Hastings has understated the case, rather than overstated it. About that time the boll weevil came into prominence, as the prediction was made that this pest would reach our state in 1914 or 1915. As a member of the chamber of commerce, and as a director of that body for two years, I was extremely active in helping to enlighten the people about the boll weevil, and in urging upon them a change in farming methods. In some quarters the activity of the chamber of commerce in Atlanta was sneered at. Nevertheless, we went forward, and through the influence of the annual corn show, great progress has been made in teaching the people of this state what can be done in the cultivation of corn. A great many people were brought to Atlanta and were sent to other parts of the state to speak upon the boll weevil and point out the disasters that would come to us unless we ceased the all-cotton method of farming. So that the situation which the war has produced is not unlooked for by me, and by many other men, because we expected this same situation to arise through the coming of the boll weevil. Even in the year 1913 I sought help from all three of the Atlanta newspapers. One of these newspapers absolutely declined to take up the matter and expose the real situation, because the editor feared the effect of it upon the outside world. The editor of another newspaper listened to me patiently and said that he would refer the matter to his agricultural expert, who was a young professor in the agricultural college at Athens. Evidently the young professor thought that I was wrong, and the editor felt that the young professor knew more about the situation than I did, although I have been, for thirty-five years, dealing directly with the farmer, and have studied the situation as carefully as any man ever did or ever could. Nothing came of it with this newspaper.

Foreign Domination.

You will remember that I appealed to you at the same time, and you published in The Constitution an interview with me along this line. This interview attracted the attention of Mr. Edmonds, of The Manufacturers' Record, and he wrote you that such publications would do the state harm. Mr. Edmonds has done a wonderful work for the southern country, but he has been blind upon this particular feature. He does not know the real situation that exists in the farming communities of this state and of the south. Lately, since the war guns have commenced to thunder in Europe, he has been delivering some sledge hammer blows on the subject of producing foodstuffs. It is high time that he did it. It is high time that all the newspapers should take up the subject and follow it relentlessly until something is accomplished. I told one of the Atlanta editors that unless something was done, the time would come when our lands would pass into the hands of foreigners coming into the state, and our native Georgian would disappear from the farms. He agreed with me, but said that he thought that would be a good thing. Not content with my efforts to induce the newspapers to take hold, I was instrumental in having drawn a resolution calling upon the legislature of 1913 to appoint a committee, made up of members of the house and senate, to investigate agricultural conditions in the state and report to the legislature of 1914, whether those conditions were satisfactory or not, and especially to report upon the Hastings statement. This resolution went before the agricultural committee of the house and was ably presented by one of the representatives of Fulton county, and strongly advocated by Mr. Robert F. Maddox, who made a speech before the committee. I also addressed the committee. The resolution made about as much impression upon that committee as pouring water on a duck's back. To be perfectly to make a cotton crop, and the owner of the plantation feels less interest in them than he does in the mules that draw the plows. All that they get upon which to live passes through his hands. At the year's end he makes such settlement as circumstances justify. Now, I would not go on record as insisting that the negroes should be allowed to own lands to too great an extent. This is a problem too big for me. But I do insist that they should be taught upon these farms to produce other things than cotton and that they should be allowed themselves, in some way, to produce many things upon which they might exist. When will our people wake up to the real situation that confronts them with reference to these hordes of ignorant negroes on the farms? They are bought and sold as they were before the war of 1860. They are traded in by court officers and owners of the big plantations in almost every county in the state. Their fines are so arranged that the big plantation owners can pay them and take them out of jail and get more value in services than they have paid in fines to the court officials. We must face about on this proposition, or be prepared to meet a worse condition in the future than the European war can produce. If the negroes know nothing except the cultivation of cotton, who is responsible? If half their time during the year is given to idleness and crime, who is responsible? They cannot work except when the cotton crop needs it, and I have already shown that this takes up only a portion of each year. No wonder they abandon the farms when they can flee to the big cities where they are lost in the crowds, but where they do have certain opportunities that are denied them on the farm. This is a question for the big men of the state, and they should give their attention to it without delay. In my opinion, the question would be largely solved by a change in our farming methods. With grain, live stock and grasses, fruit, vegetables and poultry, there would not only come a new opportunity for the negroes to work, but there would be plenty for them to eat. With proper direction on the part of the farmers who live on the farms, they could be taught other sorts of agricultural work just as easily as they have been taught to cultivate cotton. They would be better satisfied, because they would be kept busy, and there would be much less crime among them.

A Resurrection.

In all this we find a reason for the failure of our cities and towns to grow as they should. Macon, Savannah, Augusta, Columbus and many smaller cities in the state showed but little increase in population when the census of 1910 was taken. Indeed, some of these cities were compelled to have a recount of their people before they could make the claim that they had increased at all. Yet these cities are surrounded by the finest agricultural lands on earth. Atlanta alone, among all the large cities of the state, showed material gain in population. But it is well known that Atlanta is less dependent upon agriculture for its business and its population than any other important city in the state. You cannot build great cities except upon proper foundations. In Georgia the foundation of all our growth and prosperity is agriculture, and the failure of our cities to expand is proof positive that the agricultural conditions are unsatisfactory.

I plead for the resurrection and reincarnation of the old southern home. The white house with its green window blinds, standing back from the big road among the great oaks; the long avenue, flanked by green lawns; the old-fashioned flowers, the grape arbor, the vegetable garden, the orchard, the cider press, the long rows of beehives, where the fig trees grow—all around, the broad acres divided into cultivated fields by trim fences, herds of cattle, sleek horses and mules, fat hogs, flocks of sheep and goats; chickens and ducks and pigeons, strutting gobblers, guinea-fowls with their loud "pot-rack," and the stately peacock with his gorgeous feathers flashing in frank with you, they laughed at us and we were forced to abandon the fight.

No Criticism.

Now, in all that I have said you will not find one word in criticism of the farmer, using the term farmer to describe the man who is actually on the land doing the work. Nor will you find one word in criticism of the lands themselves. No fairer country can be found on the face of the globe than lies within the boundaries of our southern states. These lands need nothing but intelligent cultivation and they will enrich all the men and women who give them this sort of attention. Today the southern farms are barren of the very things that should be their glory. You can get on a railroad train, or into an automobile, and ride a hundred miles without seeing a herd of cattle. When you do find cattle, they are little, tick-infested creatures that no more resemble real cows than a tubercular cotton factory operative resembles an athlete. I have young men in my employ twenty-five years of age, born and raised in Georgia, who have never seen a mule colt. There is no grain, no hay, no poultry, no vegetable gardens, no orchards—except the peach orchards belonging to a non-resident corporation—nothing that goes to make up a real farmer's home.

Pathetic indeed has been the life of the small landowner and the tenant farmer in Georgia and the south for fifty years. Courageous, honest, patient and long-suffering. When shall they see light? When shall their burdens be lifted? In the springtime they go forth and with "our brothers in black" set their hands to the plow. They bend their backs to the burden, and when the frost falls they have added $1,000,000,000 to the wealth of the world. But small indeed is their share and meager the recompense to them. Every two years, according to the government census, they move from one place to another. They build no homes, they live in rude huts, no flow-

see next card

Agriculture — 1914

Improvement of

NO HARD TIMES FOR THIS SPALDING FARMER

Constitution 10-4-14

Griffin, Ga., October 3.—(Special.)—J. B. Hunter, a farmer of Spalding county three miles from here, has this year realized $597.63 in cash on two and a half acres of ground devoted to diversified crops.

The ground was planted in the early spring to string means. On that crop the sum of $347.63 in cash was realized. Following the beans a crop of corn was planted. By a conservative estimate the corn will yield at least 250 bushels, which, acording to local prices, will be worth a sum sufficient to make the total products of the field this year worth $597.

So soon as the corn is removed, Mr. Turner will set out a crop of cabbage on the land to be gathered in the early spring. Cabbage in this county often make more than five tons to the acre. So, it may be estimated the profit to be derived from this field in a few months' time.

Mr. Hunter and his boys have done all the work on the place, without the expenditure of a cent for expenses.

A few years ago Mr. Hunter bought 85 acres of land at $45 per acre. Today he does not owe a cent, and says he has paid for it all from the products of the place in trucking.

NEW YORK WORLD

17 May 1914

GO-AHEAD NEGRO HAS ORGANIZED A FARM COMPANY

new york world

H. P. Ewing, a Practical Farmer Himself, Believes in "Back to the Soil" for People of His Race.

HAS LEASED 105 ACRES JUST FOR A STARTER

'An Opportunity for Men Who Now Loaf Around Street Corners," He Says.

KANSAS CITY, May 16.—H. P. Ewing, a negro farmer of Wyandotte County, Kan., has evolved a plan that promises well for the betterment of his race. A farmer himself, he believes in the "back to the soil" movement for his people.

The outcome of his long cherished plan is the successful launching of the Kaw Valley Truck Farm Company, incorporated under the laws of Kansas, with a capital stock of $5,000, divided into 500 shares of $10 value. The company has leased 105 acres just west of Armourdale, has it all under cultivation and is now preparing to market a crop of vegetables of all kinds that will show results of scientific and intensive farming.

For thirty-five years Ewing has been raising crops in Wyandotte county, at one time having 1,000 acres of ground planted wholly to potatoes. From his years of experience he has evolved ideas that not only increase his yield, but enable him to market the best class of farm products. For example, he has found that turnips furnish the best fertilizer for potato ground.

Favors Potatoes.

"I find for this climate and soil that the Red River Ohio potato is the best seed to plant," he said in describing his methods. "As soon as the crop is harvested I sow the ground to turnips. The best of these I harvest, the balance are plowed under, enriching the soil and resulting in a better grade of potatoes the following year. The best time to market potatoes here is in July and August. Prices are better, as we do not have to compete with the Northern grown product.

"The farm is the place for the people of my race," he said in referring to the plans of the Kaw Valley Truck Farm Company. "We aim to come to Kansas City and hire our help. Men who are loafing around the street corners now will be given an opportunity to earn good wages and also will be taught practical farming in all its branches.

"We are now employing nine men at the farm and will have employment for sixty when harvest time comes. As fast as our capital will permit we will lease other lands, carrying out the same system in vogue at our present location, which we call Farm No. 1. Judge Sims of Kansas City, Kan., has promised that he will parole to us some of the negroes sentenced for minor offenses, so that we may make better men of them."

Intensive Farming.

Among some of the ideas Ewing has put to practical use in his plan for intensive farming is in the raising of spinach. This he drills in and cultivates thoroughly, resulting in a plant that commands a ready market. Between the spinach rows he plants tomato vines. In twenty days the spinach is harvested and the tomato plants are in shape to furnish another good crop from the same piece of ground.

Three Crops at One Time.

In one plot of twenty acres on the association farm he has watermelons, tomatoes and turnips. Between the watermelon rows are two rows of turnips, and between the turnip rows a row of tomatoes are planted. The watermelon vines curling around the tomato plants steady them during hard winds, resulting in a sturdier plant, while the tomato plants furnish shade for the watermelons, each benefitting the other and at the same time making the ground produce twice what it otherwise would.

While a board of directors controls the Kaw Valley Truck Farm Company, the farm work is under the direct management of Ewing. The officers are the Rev. J. R. Richardson, President; the Rev. Bowen, Vice-President; the Rev. D. B. Jackson, Treasurer; H. P. Ewing, Secretary and Manager; the Rev. George McNeal, Assistant Treasurer; Nick Chiles, Auditor; J. F. Bradley, attorney.

COTTON CUT URGED TO GET BENEFITS FROM LOAN FUND

Constitution 11-19-14

The Federal Reserve Board, Which Will Handle $135,000,000, Insists That the South Diversify Its Crops.

PROBLEM IS PRESSING, SAYS SECRETARY M'ADOO

Treasury Chief Issues Statement in Regard to Diversification—Aid of the Southern Bankers Is Invoked.

Washington, November 18.—Although the $135,000,000 cotton loan fund has been completed, officials of the federal reserve board and the treasury department declared today that the south must introduce diversification of crops and a reduction of cotton acreage next year to get the full benefits from the fund and insure a material increase in the price of raw cotton for next year's crop.

Secretary McAdoo, in a statement tonight, called this "the other pressing and important problem" with which the south must deal. He urged the raising of other food products, which he predicted, will find a ready market particularly if the European war persists.

"The southern farmer," said Mr. McAdoo, "therefore has an unusual opportunity now for changing existing methods and habits with certain profit and permanent benefit to himself." He suggested that the department of agriculture would gladly outline methods of crop diversification suitable to different localities, and added that bankers had an excellent opportunity to aid in this work by using their influence to direct the character of crops by imposing "proper conditions" upon advances to farmers.

"The farmers of the south," concluded the statement, "ought to wake up to the importance of crop diversification. There never before was a time when they could wake up with such certain profit to themselves."

Members of the reserve board were inclined tonight to believe that present conditions pointed to a decided reduction in the cotton acreage through influences outside the cotton producing states, and predicted that with acreage reduced cotton would go to a normal level next year.

General supervision of the cotton loan fund will be under the federal reserve board members with the recently appointed cotton loan committee in active charge of the work, according to announcement at the treasury tonight. The first meeting of this committee will be held in New York Friday morning.

Statement by McAdoo.

Mr. McAdoo's statement said in part:

"The plan gives the cotton loan committee power to appoint committees in each of the cotton producing states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Tennessee to assist it in carrying on the practical work.

"While the creation of the cotton loan fund and its use under the plan will have a far-reaching and beneficial influence upon the cotton and business situation, nevertheless the attention of the south should not be drawn away from the other pressing and important problem with which it must intelligently and effectively deal, namely, a material reduction of cotton acreage in 1915, and the raising of food products on a large part of the acreage heretofore devoted to cotton. Not only crop diversification help the prosperity of the south, but the mere assurance of a large decrease in the cotton crop next year will immediately enhance the value of the present crop.

"The food products which the south can advantageously raise on a part of the acreage will find a ready market at profitable prices even if the south itself cannot absorb them with greater advantage than by buying supplies from neighboring states. If the war in Europe is protracted the demand for food stuffs will grow in volume and intensity and must be supplied in large part by this country. The recently expressed views of the secretary of agriculture on this subject should be read by every farmer in the south. The department of agriculture will gladly give information to the farmers of the south about the best means and methods of crop diversification suitable to the conditions of each locality.

How Bankers Can Aid.

"The bankers also have an exceptional opportunity to aid in this commendable work. They can, in large measure, influence the character of crops by imposing proper conditions upon the advances they may make to the farmers. Where the bankers are not dealing direct with the farmers, the merchants who supplies the necessary credits can exert the necessary influence. I earnestly hope that the farmers, the bankers and the merchants in the south will co-operate with each other for the purpose of materially reducing the cotton crop in 1915 and securing a satisfactory crop diversification. Not only should the southern farmer plant food crops, but he can raise cattle and poultry with great benefit to himself and the country-at-large. He cannot do this, however, unless he reduces cotton acreage and raises food supplies."

Members of Loan Committee.

The cotton loan committee named by the federal reserve board is composed of W. P. G. Harding and Paul M. Warburg, of the board; A. H. Wiggin and James S. Alexander, of New York, James B. Forgan of Chicago, Festus J. Wade of St. Louis, Levi L. Rue of Philadelphia, and William A. Gaston of Boston.

The committee will actively administer the fund and probably will meet in New York Friday to make plans for carrying out its purposes.

The first task will be the appointment of committees in each of the cotton producing states. These state committees in turn will select local committees in sufficient number to safeguard the workings of the plan through familiarity with local conditions and through knowledge of applicants for loans.

These committees will be chosen as quickly as possible, but with care, since loans must be approved by the local and state committees before coming to the attention of the cotton loan committee, the final arbiter.

Although no definite decision has been reached, it is probable that the office of the cotton loan committee will be located in New York.

ALABAMA BANKERS URGE REDUCTION.

Montgomery, Ala., November 18.—Alabama bankers representing every section of the state and a preponderant percentage of the state's banking capital, in session at the capitol, adopted without dissenting vote a resolution which pledged them to seek by every reasonable means the reduction of the cotton acreage, the diversification of crops and the consummation of the Wade syndicate plan.

The resolution went as far as to declare that financial aid would not be extended to "any one directly or indirectly interested in the raising of cotton for the year 1915, unless such person will enter into an agreement to curtail the production and reduce the acreage in cotton at least one-half of what it was in 1914.

BANKERS AND FARMERS WORKING TOGETHER.

Dallas, Texas, November 18.—At a conference here today of representatives of the Texas Bankers' association and the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of Texas, formal indorsement was given the movement to secure a reduction of 50 per cent in cotton acreage next year. Farmers were urged not to sell this year's crop for less than 8 cents a pound.

Small Farmer Single-Shots Cotton Because Forced to It

Constitution 11-29-14

Editor Constitution: Now or never is the time to drive home the lesson which The Constitution has been endeavoring to teach in Georgia and the south since the days of Henry Grady. In season and out of season you have preached the doctrine that our farms should produce their own supplies. Your appeals have fallen upon deaf ears. But they will be listened to now. Why? Because, for the first time in more than fifty years cotton is not money, we have nothing else to sell and nothing with which to feed man or beast.

Who is responsible for this situation? Not the ordinary farmer. I charge that the

responsibility for this situation rests upon the shoulders of the bankers, merchants, supply-men and, especially, the large land owners of the south. And they know it now. It is they who are falling upon their knees before the government and crying, "Lord save us or we perish." They realize the condition to which they have reduced the farming interests in the south. Millions of ignorant negroes and many more millions of hardly more intelligent white farmers are today in bondage as completely as the serfs in Europe. The men who are now crying loudest for government help are the men and the sons of the men who have for fifty years been educating the farmers to produce nothing but cotton and have been prohibiting them from producing anything except cotton. In the many meetings and conventions that are now being held, are there any real farmers? No. These meetings and conventions are composed of the men I have described above, because they see in the present situation the complete collapse of their policies. No wonder they are alarmed. Never more should cotton be king in the south. Not again should these men be allowed to dictate to the people on the farms what they shall cultivate and what they shall not cultivate.

Properly and vigorously guided by The Constitution and the leading influences in the country, there is coming in the south, as a result of the war, a revolution that shall overthrow the debasing customs that have been so long in vogue and will free the farmers from the shackles that have bound them. I know you understand the conditions. I know you are ready for the fight. May God speed you.

J. T. HOLLEMAN.

Atlanta, Ga., August 28. 1914.

Thinks Georgia Should Give Bounty on All Meats Grown in State

Constitution 10-25-14

Editor Constitution: There has been a great deal said about reducing cotton acreage and about the state taking action to force a reduction, and even about the national government taking hold of it and putting an extra tax—a heavy tax on all over so many bales to the farm, or to the mule, or to the man, or some such adjustment—and I believe there has been some such a move to get people to pledge not to plant so much cotton another year.

In my opinion all the legal steps taken in that direction would be unjust and unconstitutional, and a man that will make such a pledge as that against his will and against his interest and judgment is not apt to stick to it. I think it is about as just to tell a man that he shall only go so far in any other occupation. Cotton raising is some men's talent. Let them follow that business to their own satisfaction.

Suppose the west was to put some kind of restriction on raising grain or stock. Now, let us look at this question from the other side. Let every man that wants to, grow cotton, grow cotton as much as he can to the mule. All he can to the land, to the acre or any other way. Let him grow as much of anything else as he wants to or can.

Why not levy a war tax now of so much a bale on cotton as a punishment on the cotton growers for growing so much, and maybe he will not grow so much next year for fear he will have to pay another war tax. This would be about as just as to put any other restraint on one's occupation and either would be sectional and unjust legislation.

Now, let's get to the point. Cotton should bring more money than it does. But now, instead of punishing the man that raises too much cotton, let's offer an inducement for him or his unsuccessful brothers to raise something else that will suit his talent better, and let the successful cotton raiser go on. That is his talent.

In my opinion this is the key to the whole situation. We don't need much money if we have everything we do need. Meat is the greatest proposition and is getting higher and scarcer Now let the state of Georgia give a bounty on all meats, including fish and fowl, grown in the state, of so much a pound, enough to induce some to go into the raising of cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, fowls and fish. Beef is high, pork is high, cows are high, pigs have doubled in price in the last few years. Why? You see cows and sows going to the slaughter pen. There are no sheep or goats in the country to speak of. Why? Killed for meat. Now, to encourage the raising of meats of all kinds would be to encourage the growing of all other kinds of foodstuffs both for man and beast. Did you ever know a man who had plenty of corn to feed his hogs and fodder for his cows, who did not have cornbread for himself, or bran for his milch cow and shorts for his sow and pigs; who did not have flour for himself, or peanuts for his fattening hogs to root, that did not have some for his children?

To encourage raising meats in this way would be to encourage the growing of almost every kind of foodstuff. Stock will eat the waste from the garden, the potato patch, and from the orchard. Peas are excellent for hog-food, as well as for cattle and horses. Apple pumice from making cider or vinegar put in a good box will keep a long time and will almost winter the stock hogs. Sugar beets grow well and after the sugar is extracted the pulps are excellent food for almost any kind of stock and can be kept the same as apple pumice by cheap form of silage. Bermuda grass grows well in all parts of Georgia and is excellent for pastures as well as many other grasses and weeds.

I firmly believe that if the state would encourage this in the way of a bounty, it would bring meats and other foodstuff to a more reasonable price and would reduce the cotton acreage and would put both foodstuff and cotton on a firmer basis.

Yours for the betterment.

J. A. THOMPSON.

Rockmart, Ga., October 27.

Many Things Necessary If Georgia Is to Cease Being One-Crop State

Constitution 10-28-14

By J. D Price, Commissioner of Agriculture.

Strenuous and immediate action by the farmers, bankers, railroad men, brokers, warehousemen, and commercial organizations is necessary and imperative to change Georgia from a one-crop state to a state producing and marketing on a large scale wheat, corn, oats, hogs and cattle.

In other words, there is no sense in talking of large diversified crops and extensive live-stock raising unless facilities are provided for handling and marketing the new crop and the stock.

Georgia farmers have heard that wheat grows here as abundantly as in any state in the west; they have been told often how fine cattle can be raised here more cheaply than in the west; they have heard time and again how Georgia could put a Chinese wall around herself and live inside the wall. All of these possibilities have been dwelt upon before; what we want to do now is to get down to actualities.

There are now and have been for years past, warehouses in every town in Georgia to which a farmer can go in the spring of the year and borrow money on his growing crop. What is the crop? Grain? No—cotton and more cotton. Each year he increases his crop, and borrows money on the increase for supplies and necessities. Cotton has represented to him money, food, drink, clothing, amusements, everything.

What I want to see now is this: Grain warehouses all over the state, conducted like cotton warehouses have been in the past, with adequate arrangements for handling grain in large quantities. They should be conducted so that the farmer can realize now that, when the time of the year comes, and he harvests his crop of grain, he can load up his wagons with grain, drive to the warehouse, and get a small advance on his crop, just as he did with cotton. The grain can stay in the warehouse until the farmer gets his proper price for it just as he did with cotton.

Someone will say that he can sell everything he raises right here in Georgia. I agree with him. I fully agree that everybody in the state would prefer to buy home stuff instead of foreign produce, but we must arrange things so that this buyer can buy home produce when he wants to.

Today a wholesale grain merchant in Atlanta or any other large town who wants to buy car loads of grain knows that he can buy any number from the west, and that they will be shipped at once. He would rather buy car-loads of Georgia grain, but he knows of no place where he can put in a large order and be sure of prompt fulfillment. So he orders from the west.

We must change this if we expect to be successful in raising grain as a large crop. Any man in Georgia knows plenty of places where he can buy any amount of cotton; he would not think of sending to Texas for it. Let us make that true of wheat and other grains; let us establish many grain markets in Georgia where the broker, next spring, can buy any number of carloads at a moment's notice.

Wheat sold for 92 cents a bushel when the European war started; it has now gone to $1.12, and is daily increasing in price. Farmers in the west are even now holding for $1.25. The war means prosperity for them and for the cattle men, when so many others in this country are facing financial loss. It will mean prosperity for the Georgia farmers if they have grain and cattle to sell in the spring, when prices will be still higher. Wheat fields generally yielding twice as much as those in the United States are now standing in Europe and Russian Asia with rotting grain.

With Georgia's climate furnishing green forage all through the winter, as contrasted with conditions on the snow-bound plains of some of the great western cattle states, finer and better cattle and other stock can be grown here than in the west, and for less cost.

Farmer Black and Farmer Witham Discuss Need of Farmer Market

12-16-14

Constitution

The recent letter of Mrs. Nellie Peters Black, to The Constitution, in which she stressed the difficulty of the farmers finding cash markets for food products, has created comment phenomenal in breadth and interest. Mrs. Black spoke from experience, herself being an owner and manager of a large plantation in Gordon county.

W. S. Witham, the well-known banker who is also a farming authority, in a letter to Mrs. Black, which we reproduce, details suggestions of particular interest concerning the matter under discussion.

Mr. Witham's Letter.

His letter follows:

"Atlanta, Ga., December 1, 1914.—My dear Mrs. Black: In referring to your letter in The Constitution and to the editorial on the same, I, being manager of a small farm in Fulton county, will give you a few suggestions as requested in your letter.

"Of course, diversify your crops. The very first principle of a successful farmer is to raise all home supplies. One of the oldest and best farmers in Georgia said to me: 'Any farmer who undertakes to raise cotton at even 15 cents, and tries to buy his home supplies is a "stall-fed" fool. The raising of all cotton and failure to diversify crops is chargeable to habit and not to common-sense.' I told him I raised all our supplies for man and beast on my little farm except salt, sugar and coffee, and for those I bartered potatoes, eggs and other farm products.

"Your letter, Mrs. Black, calls for 'a market.' That question I have referred to the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the state agricultural department. A market is not all the farmer needs, but judgment to decide upon the proper time to sell. There is a time to plant; a time to reap; a time to sell and a time to hold. The Good Book teaches all that.

"Alfalfa is now selling at $30 per ton, but if you have any, keep it and you will get $40 first of next spring. I am offered 90 cents to $1.10 per bushel for cowpeas—I will keep mine and get $2.50 next June. This is not the time to sell oats—it is too late, and yet too early. Early offerings of oats brought a good price and oats will bring a good price in the spring, after some crazy farmers have given theirs away at present prices.

Not Cotton.

"'Witham banks' will lend money to plant oats, wheat, corn and hay, but for cotton—not one cent. There is a time to plant and a time to sell.

"Why do you plant hay when you can plant alfalfa that requires no attention for ten years after the first expense, which is $15 per bushel for seed and the preparation of the land at the same cost any other crop would require? We cut out alfalfa four times per year and cut from one to three tons to the acre—each cutting. This is my experience in raising alfalfa and not something I read in a book. You must get the right kind of seed and you must prepare the land properly, and you must use poor and self-draining land.

"When dealers tell you they prefer western potatoes, or they prefer western hay, they are merely dickering with you for a price. A man in Cobb county reported to the newspapers that he had a lot of hay and could not sell it. The next day he received notice from half a dozen buyers. Buyers are plentiful, if we farmers will look them up.

"As to your hogs, you can sell them readily and get a good price. I sold mine on foot at my front gate and got very satisfactory prices.

"You say the country stores offer 14 cents for Jersey butter. Get in your wagon and drive up to Chattanooga and any hotel there will give you double that amount and take all you can make. The same with eggs. There are twenty-five places in Atlanta that will give you 35 cents per dozen the year around for all the eggs you can send them. You can make contracts on the foregoing products and get the cash.

"As to potatoes, I sold a few at 75 cents to pay for the few articles not produced on my farm, and the rest of my potatoes are bedded for spring, when I will get $1 to $1.50 per bushel.

A Typical Incident.

"A friend of mine wrote me he had fifteen cars of good, white corn that he could not sell. He sent me a sample, and I took it to a miller here, and he said: 'We will buy the entire lot, and furnish him sacks free, but (now listen) write your friend that this corn will have to be held for thirty days as it is too new and in present condition unmarketable.'

"The trouble with most of our farmers is that they are short above the eyes in disposing.

"Diversify your crop? Of course. Every new business has to undergo disadvantages until it becomes established, and that is certainly true in regard to diversified farming in Georgia.

"If I had my life to go over again, I would marry the same girl, join the same church, subscribe for an agricultural paper, but I would go into farming for a luxurious, independent, comfortable money-making business and to find an easy road to happiness here, and to heaven hereafter.

"Yours sincerely,

"W. S. WITHAM."

Mrs. Black's Reply.

To this letter, Mrs. Black replies as follows:

"Atlanta, 519 Spring St., December 5, 1914.
Dear Mr. Witham: I feel very much flattered that a busy man like you would tak
the time to write to your farmer friend, a
if my article will set a good many pe
of your stamp to talking I think there
be something doing. I wrote from my
with the hope that it would bring c
gestions, and they have surely beer
from all sides.

"Thank you for all your valuable suggestions, but you are so close to a market town you can hardly appreciate what a difference freight, express and mail rates make to the farmer.

"With my best wishes,

"NELLIE P. BLACK."

Agriculture—1914

Improvement of

Co-operation Imperative To Find Markets for Corn, Cattle and Pork

Constitution 11-10-14

—B. W. HUNT.

Editor Constitution: The agricultural south is blamed for following the method of the most successful manufacturers, i. e., censured for directing all their energies toward producing but one crop to sell—cotton.

This concentration, in manufacturing but one pattern, has enabled Ford to make automobiles cheaper than competitors; the same theory in practice enables the cotton mill to reduce the manufacturing cost per pound of its fabrics.

Why does the rule so profitable in manufacturing fail in farming?

Usually, I believe, because the farmer is so hard pressed for the money which his financially liquid crop is expected to bring at his nearest railway station that he is obliged to sell to the anxious buyers as soon as the crop is gathered, and almost regardless of price. The average farmer is not to be as severely blamed as he should be advised by students of economics. Only the well-informed realize that the raising of but one agricultural selling crop has finally resulted in disaster to all but wealthy farmers, only those financially able to hold nonperishable agricultural crops for a long period of depression for the return of normal prices succeed.

To the man in debt, the one-crop practice is paralleled only by speculation on Wall street, where the people with small margins lose what little they have, to the rich, who add to their wealth, when the money panics close out those unable to protect their too small margined purchases of stock.

Hence, all economists advise the average farmer to diversify, raise most of that which his family consumes, and all of the rations he shall feed to his work animals, thereby eliminating the risk of selling cotton below cost of raising.

Then, why has not the farmer diversified long ago? Because he has no satisfactory market for beef, mutton, pork, hay and the cereals. I expect this statement to be challenged, but in my own experience it is in general terms too true.

As I write I am inquiring where and how to dispose of a corn fattened hog weighing 400 pounds. My neighbor has Hereford beef cattle, less than a carload. Where can he sell at a fair price? Nowhere in the south that I can unreservedly recommend.

Compare the market situation in the south with that of any European country, and one then readily sees why we remain cotton raisers exclusively.

Co-Operation.

In Europe there is co-operation and real copartnership in all farming operations, buying, selling, shipping, marketing.

In Denmark the farmer with a hog to dispose of like the one I now want to sell for pork would ship the meat animal to a nearby co-operatively owned packing house in which he is a copartner.

No bargaining necessary.

The farmers themselves own the slaughter houses, not run like those which are looking for bargains to increase earnings. They just pay market price, no more, no less.

Let those who despair of the success of diversification of farm crops visit Putnam county, and see in successful operation a co-operative creamery, owned exclusively by the farmers in copartnership. The tenant farmer here is on a perfect equality with the largest planter. Credit obtained for the poorest member to purchase needed equipment on a parity with the richest.

We have found in co-operation the machine that surely solves the almost insurmountable difficulties that heretofore faced the independent individualist.

I mention a concrete example because it best illustrates that the need of all unsuccessful land cultivators is copartnership and co-operation.

Thus they obtain the generalship of the best minds in their organization.

Form themselves into an army that conquers difficulties.

The scientific knowledge of one member benefits all the copartners.

When the autocrat of the plantation federates with his neighbors in a co-operative society, he financially, socially and ethically benefits himself as well as his associates.

The individual who independently endeavors to diversify his farm crops usually becomes discouraged, no matter how correct his judgment.

Through co-operation is found the road easy to travel toward successful diversification.

BENJAMIN W. HUNT.

Eatonton, Ga.

The Shadow of Oligarchy.

Editor Constitution: I have been very much interested in reading Mr. L. A. Niven's letter in a recent issue of The Constitution. Like the Marietta man, I, too, have had trouble in selling food crops, but I think the cause is different.

I live in a cotton county, and it is said we import $50,000 worth of food annually. I do not grow cotton, but grow food crops and live stock, yet I have great difficulty in selling the same. Now I cannot sell hay to the consumer, for the farmer that buys hay usually buys on credit, and buys from the supply merchant who has a mortgage over him. And I cannot sell to the supply merchant, for he buys from the wholesaler on sixty or ninety days' time, and if he does not pay then he can settle with a note.

When our local butchers want a hog they hunt up some ignorant negro, and buy it for two or three cents less than market price.

The man who has grain, hay and live stock to sell is usually independent, pays cash for what he buys and buys where he can buy the cheapest. The local merchants care only for the all-cotton farmer, for he has to buy what they want to sell him, and they can make a big profit on what they sell.

W. D. NELSON.

Columbia County, Georgia.

Constitution 7-5-14

COTTON--HOME AND ABROAD

The man who thinks the southern half of the United States is to hold forever and unchallenged a monopoly of cotton production for the world, will do well to read the following extract from The Brooklyn Eagle:

> The Civil War prophecy of India as a real rival of the United States in cotton production is approaching realization. India's last crop is over 6,000,000 bales. Our own production is about 13,500,000 bales. We have now no monopoly on the clothing of the tropics, no monopoly on the raw material for the Manchester mills.

A few weeks ago The Constitution quoted by Richard Spillane, and going to show that already the south is seriously menaced, so far as civilization's cotton supply is concerned. The Eagle has simply gotten hold of part of that article. Taken as a whole, Mr. Spillane showed that the south was at present producing less than 50 per cent of the world's supply. He viewed the greatest menace as coming from China. In that country the natives were devoting the fields outlawed to the opium poppy to the cultivation of cotton, and making headway at it.

India and China are only two of the countries that contribute to the gross supply of cotton and collectively threaten the dominion of the southern states. Egypt yields a large crop, Russia is a promising competitor, and even in South America the industry is gradually assuming commercial proportions.

The south can, in spite of this rivalry, still retain its hold if it eliminates waste in growing and marketing; practices economy in production, in obedience to the doctrine hammered home consistently by the southern agricultural colleges; diversifies energetically, to the end of lessening the present drain on the proceeds of cotton and develops its cotton spinning industries at home.

In other words, Providence has placed in the hands of the south a natural supremacy in this regal fiber. But ordinary business sense must be used in its conservation. If that rule is accepted, the south's cotton priority is safe. If it is neglected, the penalty of regaining priority will be a heavy one.

THE ROAD TO SALVATION.

Constitution 11-9-14

The sturdy Georgia farmers living around Powder Springs, in Cobb county, already have blazed a trail out of the wilderness for the south in 1915.

Every county in the cotton belt can follow that trail. If it does so, and assurance is given to that end, the present problem of distress cotton will melt away. Misgiving so far as 1915 is concerned will become a bogie of the past.

The whole secret is that this far-seeing and energetic Georgia yeomanry already have transmuted their community into a self-sustaining principality. They raise not only enough feedstuff to be independent of the outside, but to sell to many comers. Most of them are in position to hold their cotton indefinitely, with little or no assistance. For most of them the question of a meal ticket for the coming year is not one that disturbs their waking and sleeping moments.

Here is a formula as told in a dispatch to The Constitution from Powder Springs, and each line of it is worth reading in each county in the cotton belt:

> There is a much better feeling among the farmers and merchants of this community than a few days ago.
> There hasn't been a grain of ...

some shipped away from here. There were just a very few oats shipped into this place in the early spring before oats were harvested, but since harvest enough has been sold by the farmers to offset those bought. One farmer said this week he had a thousand bushels to sell now.

The majority of our farmers made enough wheat to do them until another wheat crop comes in. A majority of them have meat in their smokehouses now, their own raising. There have been hundreds of bushels of corn, beans, tomatoes, apples, peaches, pears; in fact, vegetables and fruit of all kinds, canned and stored away for winter use in this community. The corn crop, pea crop and hay crop is sufficient to do for another year, with some to sell. Most of the farmers are in position to hold their cotton for an unlimited time.

There are other counties in Georgia as sensibly and fortunately placed as Cobb. The Constitution cites Cobb as the one immediately under our eye, and presenting in compact form the road to salvation for the entire south.

The Powder Springs community is entering the fall season with no forbidding mortgage against its cotton crop for the necessities of life. The necessities of life have been raised right on home soil. Smokehouses and cribs are full. There is a big enough surplus to sell to the outside and thus bring in additional revenue. So far as the Powder Springs community is concerned, the European bloodhunters can fish, dig bait or go ashore.

It is incumbent upon farmers, tenants, landlords, bankers, merchants, press and general leaders of public opinion and policy, to see that next year the Powder Springs plan becomes the universal plan. There is hardly one county from the Potomac to the Rio Grande that cannot follow suit. If they do follow suit, our troubles will disappear into mist and the European upheaval will be transmuted into a positive blessing.

Curtailment of the cotton crop at least one-half—three-fourths would be better—is the first consideration, whatever the method. That is the key to any solution of the south's problems, and The Constitution has enough faith in the ability of the south's leaders to believe curtailment can be guaranteed. Not less important is the raising of bumper food crops. This means the south will not next year be under one penny of indebtedness to other sections.

It also means the south will have on hand an enormous surplus of feedstuff to sell at good prices to hungry Europe, unable to feed itself.

The road to salvation for the south is perfectly plain. It only remains for the south to summon its old-time backbone and fighting power to travel the road. The result of "living at home" is as certain as the result of a mathematical formula. The summons to put it into effect goes out to the highest and humblest elements in the south.

Newspapers — Miscellaneous — 1921

MARKET.

Advertiser 12-17-14

The Rotary Club, of Montgomery, has determined o make the establishment of a Montgomery market, for diversified crops, raised about Montgomery its chief civic endeavor. This organization, as is well known, is made up of successful men, each business or profession having one representative in it. It is claimed and no doubt justly, that the Rotary Club is "the livest organization in Montgomery."

The club will put its vim and enthusiasm in a co-operative and co-ordinated movement to furnish on the part of the business community of Montgomery a ready and certain market for crops other than cotton. The Advertiser is gratified that at the meeting of the club, where this was determined upon, the editorials of this paper were not only commended but were given credit for stirring up enthusiasm on this vital question.

The representative of the largest fertilizer concern in the State of Alabama, in speaking earnestly in support of the movement for a market for farm produce said that his company had undertaken to sell in Mobile a carload of Clarke county corn, but had found it impossible. It would seem that in a city the size of Mobile there would be no difficulty in disposing of a carload of corn, but skilled business men who had undertaken the sale on the part of the farmer found themselves unable to sell that corn at market prices. We are continually preaching to the farmer to raise more corn, more grain of every character and other diversified products. But what does it profit the farmer to raise a big crop of corn, if he cannot sell it?

At this same meeting the representative of one of the largest wholesale grocery houses said that not a day passed but what his firm received letters from customers asking their aid in selling grain, syrup, potatoes and other diversified products. It was impossible to sell such crops and so to meet the wishes of the customers, who were anxious to sell those very diversified crops, which they had been advised to grow. Doubtless every wholesale and jobbing house get such letters.

The question was brought fairly before the Rotary Club by Chairman E. J. Meyer, of the Committee on Civic Affairs. It was submitted as the work at which the Rotary Club could most benefit the business community of Montgomery. The Rotarians do not expect to whirl in and all by themselves tear up and transform business and marketing conditions in the city. They are men of too much common sense to believe that they can do this with any little hurrah campaign. The club did believe that it could start the ball to rolling, and it named a first class committee to do some tangible and practical work. This committee will willingly take up the detail work of putting up a certain and remunerative market for diversified farm products, but the committee will depend largely upon the business men and the bankers of the city to help solve the problem. As a matter of fact the problem cannot be solved, if the business men generally and the bankers do not interest themselves in it.

At the same meeting the gratifying announcement securing some aid from the Federal go[illegible] establishing such a market. The Smith-Lever bill recently passed by Congress contemplates aiding farmers in marketing their products. Prof. J. F. Duggar, the head of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Auburn, will do some special work under the Smith-Lever act—work which will be directed towards providing markets for farm products. He has already written several bulletins and letters to newspapers urging co-operation between the business community and the farmer, whereby the latter can sell what he raises.

This reform must come—this establishment of markets for crops, other than cotton. The hour has struck for the ecenomic change. It can come slowly and painfully, with the farmer and the business men going forward slowly, along mistaken lines at times, and with unnecessary losses at times. It can come quickly through energy, common sense and a knowledge of business affairs.

NEGROES ARE THE CHIEF SUFFERERS.

Local business men say that there will be much suffering among the negroes of the Black Belt next winter. The negro farmer tenant will be the most acute sufferer from the conditions created by the European war. [illegible] happy-go-lucky creature who has not yet realized the hardships he may have to undergo this winter.

Advertiser 11-13-14

A well known Montgomery County planter and business man estimates that half the cotton marketed in Montgomery is produced by negro tenants, who make a crop on advance money. This money is loaned to them with the understanding and promise that it will be paid back by the sale of the first cotton, that they bring to market. No matter what the condition of the market is, the negro tenant is under promise to sell his cotton and turn it into money as soon as he can bring it to market.

In many instances the money is advanced by small merchants of limited capital who must have their advance money paid back to meet their own obligations. This condition is one which heretofore has militated against any general cotton holding movement in the South.

The various plans proposed for the cotton producer do not contemplate taking care of the negro tenant. Under the present price for cotton, he will be forced to sell his cotton at less than it cost him to raise it. If the war continues until next Spring he will not be able to make any arrangements for getting advance money for next year. The negro tenant and the negro farmer who makes his crop on borrowed money is in for a hard winter. Yet, the crowds of negroes who thronged the streets of Montgomery Saturday were laughing, and good humored as though they never had a care on earth.

WHEAT AND THE MIDDLE ALABAMA FARMER.

Advertiser 10-12-14

The Advertiser believes that it is rendering a public service in calling attention to the action of the H. M. Hobbie Grocery Company in proposing a plan which will greatly alleviate the unfavorable farming and business conditions which will prevail next year in Middle Alabama. So far, in all the South we have not seen a finer, practical suggestion, for self-help than that embodied in the offer of this company, for the benefit of Montgomery and its immediate territory.

In brief, this company stands ready to erect a flour mill in Montgomery for the consumption of wheat grown around Montgomery. Moreover, it offers to [illegible] cents a bushel, the fre[illegible] charge on wheat from Montgomery to St. Louis. On this basis the company will pay cash for all wheat delivered in July and August.

There is but one condition attached to the offer, namely, that the company shall receive assurance that five thousand acres will be planted within a radius of fifty miles of Montgomery. This is a just and reasonable condition, for the company says: "Unless we have this assurance, it will be useless for us to spend the money to erect the mill and then be forced to buy western wheat, for our sole object in buying wheat is to help our farmers in keeping at home one hundred thousand dollars which goes West, never to return."

The company has gone even farther; it has bought a carload of Alabama seed wheat which it is now offering for sale at cost. This seed is acclimated; it is suitable for planting in Alabama. In addition to this, the company has secured a supply of the Farming Bulletins of the Federal Agricultural Department, which gives complete instruction for the production of wheat. They are to be had for the asking.

The Middle Alabama farmer, when asked to diversify his crop, has returned the true and just answer: "There is no certain market in Montgomery for any crop except cotton." In this instance, his objection is destroyed; here is a certain cash market for wheat in Montgomery in July and August, the month when the farmer most needs money.

There will be a large reduction in the cotton acreage of this section next year, no matter what happens. To what better use could the land heretofore planted in cotton be put than to the growing of wheat? It will be wiser for the land owner to grow some wheat than to let his land "lay out."

The time to act is now; if wheat is to be grown it must be planted this fall. If the farmer wants to, let him look deeply into this wheat growing suggestion; let him study it from all angles; let him satisfy himself. If he is going to do anything with it, he should begin at once.

ALABAMA BANKERS TO SEEK SMALLER COTTON ACREAGE

Conference Will Be Held Today at Capitol at 10 O'clock With Superintendent Walker

Advertiser

SOME METHOD WANTED

11-17-14

Co-operation of Alabama bankers in the movement to effect a substantial promote diversification of crops will be sought by speakers at the conference of bankers held here today. The conference was called by A. E. Walker, State Superintendent of Banks, in the hope that the financial leaders will be able to agree upon some method by which a considerable measure of relief will be afforded the farmers.

The meeting of the bankers will be called to order at the Capitol this morning at 10 o'clock. Superintendent Walker will be in charge until a chairman and secretary are elected by the assembled bankers. Speakers of prominence are on the program for addresses, and various phases of the present financial situation will be discussed at two sessions—morning and afternoon. In addition to well-known Alabama bankers, Sol Wexler of New Orleans, is on the program for an address on "The Duty of the Banks of the South in the Present Crisis." It was not known definitely Monday whether Mr. Wexler would be present or not, but Mr. Walker was hopeful that he would.

It is Mr. Walker's hope that one concrete development of the conference will be the organization of central committees or boards in the various counties of the State to direct the means endorsed for relief. Remedies vary with local conditions, he believes, and the best results can be obtained only through the expert counsel of persons intimately acquainted with the needs of the separate counties.

The program for today's conference follows:

Meeting called to order by A. E. Walker, 10 a. m., sharp; election of Chairman and Secretary of meeting; opening address by the Chairman, thirty minutes; Crop Diversification, Hon. Richard M. Hobbie, Montgomery, Ala., thirty minutes; Plans for Relief of Cotton Situation, Hon. Frank C. Moody, Tuscaloosa, Ala., thirty minutes; The Duty of the Banks of the South in the Present Crisis, Hon. Sol Wexler, President of Whitney-Central National Bank, New Orleans, La.; appointment by Chairman of a Committee on Resolutions; adjournment for dinner, one hour and thirty minutes.

Afternoon Session—The Wade Syndicate, Hon. Jas. Keith, Vice-President Alabama Bankers' Association, Anniston, Ala., thirty minutes; The Bankers' Relation to the Farmer, Hon. G. L. Comer, President of Alabama Bankers' Association, Eufaula, Ala., thirty minutes; Who is Carrying the Real Burden? Hon. L. M. Bashinsky, Troy, Ala., thirty minutes; report of Committee on Resolutions; open discussion; adjournment.

Agriculture — 1914

Improvement of SLAVS ON SOUTHERN FARMS.

Advertiser 11-26-14

An interesting side light on the question of quickening the immigration movement is furnished in a pamphlet written by LeRoy Hodges of Washington, whose pamphlet is printed as a public document by Congress. Mr. Hodges is counsellor of the Bureau of Economics and Public Efficiency (the same having a strange sound), and assistant counsellor of the Bureau of Immigration of the Southern Commercial Congress.

The writer has made a study of the Slavic races on Southern farms and his pamphlet comes out at a time when there is a widespread interest in the subject which he discusses.

The average man will doubtless be surprised to read that Slavs are now engaged in agriculture in each of the sixteen Southern States. Only a few are found in some, "but wherever they are found," says Mr. Hodges, "they enjoy the confidence and good will of their neighbors." Their personal honesty is attested by merchants; their probity of character is attested by the law-enforcing authorities; their thrift is shown by the fact that a majority of them have come to own the farms they cultivate; and the further fact that they have greatly improved these farms, and have money in the bank. They have become citizens. In the South the largest numbers of these people are located in the States of Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

The principal stems of the Slavic races in the South are the Poles, the Bohemians and the Slavoks. The Bohemians are located mainly in the Southern counties of Virginia and are exceptionally high class people.

Hodges notes that instead of the Dutch and Flemish, English, French, German, Irish, Scandinavian, Scotch and Welsh home-seekers of other days, "the tide of immigration now casts upon our shores Slavs, Magyars, Greeks, Russian Hebrews, North and South Italians, Syrians, Turks and other people from Southeast Europe who are emigrating to better their economic condition. These people are largely unskilled laborers from the industries and small farms of Europe. * * * Upon entering the United States they turn to the mills, factories and mines to take advantage of the high wages offered, although the majority of them have been reared as tillers of the soil. The recent immigrants are primarily agriculturists. They labor and save under the most discouraging conditions and make the utmost sacrifices in order that they may some day return to the land. Among the Slavs this desire for land ownership dominates their daily life and gives them inspiration to stand the fierce competitive struggle in the industrial centers."

Commenting further, Mr. Hodges says:

> The Federal Bureau of Immigration reports that thousands of the recent immigrants return to Europe each year after a residence in this country of from about five to twenty years, with, in some cases, large savings to invest in Europe. These people are returning abroad to invest their American-made money in the agricultural lands of Europe, for which they have to pay from $200 to $500 per acre, without any real knowledge of the agricultural opportunities in the South. A proper effort, however, would turn many thousands of these people who are seeking agricultural homes toward the South to be used in our agricultural and industrial development.
>
> In doing this we would not be inviting economic ruin and social degradation, as certain chronic pessimists and political demagogues would have us believe, for the success of the immigrant agricultural colonies already established in the South show that under proper conditions and encouragement the recent immigrants, especially the Slavs, make very desirable citizens. The truthfulness of this is evidenced by the Bohemian, Serb, Polish, and Slovak colonists found in Texas, by the Slovaks in Arkansas, by the Bohemian and Slovak farmers in the southside Virginia counties, and by the Slavish farmers in Oklahoma, Missouri, Maryland, Alabama, Louisiana, and in the other Southern States.
>
> As a result of this war we shall be able practical to take our choice of Teutons and Slavs. We shou be able to get them in vast droves. Immediately fo lowing the last great famine in Ireland there was a unparalleled movement of Irish people to the Unite States. We may look for the same effect, only to more marked degree, when this war ends. Peop from every European country involved in this wa will be eager to escape the economic degradatio which must inevitably fall upon them. We have a opporunity to pick the best people of Europe an leave go the worst element. We are more intereste in the Teutons than the Slavs, but the Slav deserv consideration.
>
> Incidentally, The Advertiser thinks the railroa which ply Southern territory have a great oppo tunity to build up this section by following the exan ple of Northern trans-continental lines in rece years. These cross-country roads were powerf factors in bringing fresh, ambitious, worthy peop to Western farms. And they have helped mighti to make the West blossom.
>
> The objection raised against letting Europea come to Alabama on the ground that they have any money with which to buy land, will not ho water. How much money did the average hom steader have when he and his wife and boys settl the virgin lands of Alabama when these lands we opened for entry? It is true they got these lands f an inconsiderable sum. But it is also true that th faced greater economic hardships in the pioneer days than any colony of thrifty European Teutons or Slavs will suffer if they are brought to Alabama. It doesn't take much for a foreigner to live on; it doesn't take him long to create his resources if given a chance under such favorable circumstances as Alabama may offer them at any time.

THE FARMER'S PLAN.

Advertiser — 12-8-14

There was a significant meeting held Monday in this city, significant not in the number of men who attended, but in their character and in their purpose. The meeting was made up of planters of Middle Alabama, men who own and operate large plantations; men, who, as it were, are at the head of large business enterprises, who not ony have to look out for their own business welfare, but who are responsible, in a way, for food and clothing for many more who are dependent upon the plantation for a livelihood.

The meeting was a business meeting, to discuss plans for the future. There was nobody there with "a plan" recommended to take the sting out of agricultural adversity, there was no man there with a set speech, calculated to arouse public interest in his personality and in his ideas. It was a business conference met to discuss this question, "What is the best thing for us to do?"

The unanimous opinion was that provisions should be made for growing more food crops than were ever grown before; to study the growth of crops other than cotton. But more important of all, they considered plans of marketing crops other than cotton. That such crops as wheat, oats, potatoes, hay, and even vegetables can be grown easily is beyond discussion; but selling such crops in large quantities is another matter. The marketing problem for the food crops, is the biggest problem connected with changing the present agricultural system, as such change is demanded by the European war and the approach of the boll weevil. There is still another side question to this problem, the financing, the borrowing of money for growing such crops, before they are ready for market. This, too, demands care and the establishment of new methods.

These Middle Alabama planters are trying to strike out along new lines and to overcome obstacles which are not in the way of the cotton raiser in normal times. Being intelligent men, they see that some change is inevitable. A leading cotton man of Montgomery, one familiar with European conditions, told the meeting that if more than fifty per cent of the cotton planted last year was planted this year, cotton would be selling for five and six cents before the first of April. This is a logical statement in view of the enormous crop raised and of trade conditions as they now exist. If the world knew, however, that less than half a crop of cotton would be raised in the South, he expressed the opinion that cotton would go to ten cents before next summer, in spite of the war.

In short the future of cotton next year depends upon the acreage planted in cotton. And, as the land must be used, a study is being made of other crops and of the very important phase of marketing.

Constitution 11-25-14

AN EXPERIMENT IN BEEF.

There ought to be deep significance in the announcement, recently published in The Constitution, that to a firm local to Milledgeville has been awarded the fiscal year's contract for supplying beef to the state sanitarium, located at that place. The price per pound is noted at 8.90, and it is stated that so rapid has been the progress of cattle raising in Baldwin and surrounding counties that the contractors hope to supply all their contract from local sources. The dimensions of the contract is shown in the fact that it will average 1.500 pounds of beef a day.

This announcement comes in close conjunction with the statement that on the state farm next year cotton will be radically reduced and feedstuff made to take its place.

The state and the prison commission could make no better investment than to raise not one bale of cotton in 1915, but to devote the acres, the labor and the time to a broad scale demonstration of the feasibility of raising beef cattle in Georgia on a comparatively large scale.

For instance, with proper management the state farm could be made to yield enough beef, and more, for the population of the small-sized city that is comprised in the sanitarium. It is possible that turning to beef as a practical innovation, the scheme might total a profit fractionally less than that usually returned by the farm. But the negative loss sustained in this connection would be more than compensated by the state-wide stimulus given to an industry destined eventually to compete with cotton. Books could be kept on the enterprise and bulletins issued from time to time would report progress and show farmers who were following the example of the commission what pitfalls to avoid and what courses to follow.

The peculiar circumstances of the case—the contract let by the state, the free acres of the state farm, make a unique opportunity. It would mark an epoch in Georgia if, at the expiration of the year, not only had this entire contract been filled with Georgia beef, but if the state itself had set to its farmers an example in "living at home."

An added incentive in this connection is the rapid dwindling of cattle raising in the northwest and west. Papers from these sections report that not in years has the volume been so small. They attribute it, universally, to the fact that the feeding season is only six out of twelve months, which runs costs up out of all reason. In Georgia the feeding season is ten and ten and a half months out of twelve, and the soil offers every crop for cattle sustenance.

The state has a great plant near Milledgeville for farm demonstration purposes. It would be highly fitting if there the state should elaborate to her farmers the profit in this splendid industry.

THE VALUABLE WORK OF TICK ERADICATION.

Advertiser 11-4-14

In Alabama are some of the best watered and the best pasture lands in the United States. The pasture and grazing lands, nearness to market, water and climate considered, are perhaps the cheapest grazing lands in the country. In Alabama, because of our mild and excellent climate, cattle have to be fed only a few weeks in winter. In fact, in some portions of the State, cattle raisers have not deemed it necessary to feed or house their cattle at all, but to allow them the run of the range in the winter without any protection.

And yet Alabama is not considered any sort of a cattle growing State. The industry until here lately has been at a standstill. What is the trouble? It can be stated in one word—ticks. In the same proportion that the tick evil is reduced, the cattle raising industry will advance.

An encouraging fact in the general election of Tuesday in Alabama was the pronounced victory scored in Hale county by the advocates of tick eradication. In Limestone county the county commissioners have determined to put on a force of workers for tick eradication. They were, in a measure, forced to this decision by the inexorable logic of facts. In Madison county on the east and in Lauderdale county on the west, tick eradication had been in effect and as a result the quarantine on cattle from those counties had been lifted, and farmers sold their cattle at prices much better than the farmers of Limestone county could receive. Limestone, some years ago, began this work, but through a mistaken public sentiment, it was dropped; the error has now been rectified in the face of undisputable facts.

The people of Montgomery county, perhaps, do not realize the value and importance of tick eradication, although the work is in progress here. As a grass county, there is none better in the South than Montgomery county. Two factors have discouraged cattle raising, first the cattle tick and second, the lack of a consistent market. This last condition has been remedied by the national increase in the price of beef and meats, with a corresponding increase in demand. The other factor is being removed by intelligent work in this county for the eradication of ticks. At one time, in yielding to a supposed popular demand for the suppression of the activities of tick eradication the work was suspended. But, fortunately, it was reestablished quickly.

Our people should realize that cattle growing in the immediate future is going to be one of the most profitable of agricultural industries. In this era of high prices, nothing has advanced more rapidly than the price of beef cattle. They should understand that cattle cannot be raised with profit, unless ticks are eradicated. That being true, the people of the county should uphold the county officials who are engaged in the work of tick eradication.

THE RICHES IN OUR LANDS.

Advertiser 5-18-14

The presence in Alabama of a committee, representing a club of Panama Canal Employees, looking for an opportunity in land investment is but on of a series of circumstances showing continuous development in buying and selling and improving Alabama lands. A corrobating event was the recent purchase by Secretary of the Treasury Leslie M. Shaw of land to the value of $50,000 in Lowndes County. Careful readers of the newspapers can not fail to have been impressed by the many items in the papers recording the purchase of land tracts and ordinarily by some investor from without the State.

The average man does not fully comprehend the general activity in land matters in Alabama. Nor does he comprehend the signal benfits which will accruet to the State through the increased value of the land, and the augmented agriculture production of the State.

President N. F. Thompson of the Southern Settlement and Development Organization has just issued a statement containing these significant words:

The products of the mineral region of Alabama both raw and manufactured, approximated last year some $60,000,000 while the value of the agricultural products for the same period was $200,000,000, and at that only a fraction of the value of the products was realized as compared to their palpable possibilities. There are 20,000,000 acres of Alabama lands available for farming purposes, of which about 12,000,000 acres are idle, while the other 8,000,000 acres are only nominally cultivated, with some rare exceptions. If Alabama farmers would only bring up the corn crop of the State to its just proportion it would equal in value the cotton crop of the State. So here is a work that is worthy the combined efforts of every citizen and agency in the State to advance, and if such combination is given Alabama will lead the nation within the next decade in progress and prosperity.

Mr. Thompson shares the enthusiasm of every man who is now interested in land development, an enthusiasm borne of the interest of outside people in Alabama, and of the great possibilities for the State in the development of the unused acres of the State. The main thing, of course is to get more farmers. The task of getting more famers has been going on in spite of the supposed financial depression. It it is said reliably by men who are in a position to know that last winter, in spite of unfavorable conditions in every other line of business, there was more land bought and sold, and at higher prices than ever before. In general the purchasers of land who come from other States come with money in their pockets and with experience berind them.

Confidence and enthusiasm among our own people will do as much as any other factor in developing our lands and in making a crop grow on two acres where it grew only on one acre before. Our own people need a little waking up on the possibilities of the new movement. Its land means far more to the State of Alabama than does its mineral resources. We need, however, the system, capital and brains, behind mineral development, to push forward our land improvement. A great opportunity is before us and the tide of progress, in increasing volume turns to the South.

Advertiser 10-9-14

"COTTON IS KING."

Editor The Advertiser:

The conflict of Armageddon, the present world war, s hard on kings and will be harder before it is over. King Cotton is suffering with the rest. The honest, egitimate production of cotton can hurt nobody. But he production of cotton enforced, compelled by greed, raud and falsehood, is what hurts. Who is to blame? The land owners who force their tenant farmers to raise a certain amount of cotton, or all cotton, to the exclusion of food crops; the supply men who refuse credit except to those who plant and cultivate so much cotton; the mule and horse dealers who have made cotton raising the sole condition of credit; and, generally, all those who have given cultivation and force to the falsehood, that cotton is the only crop that will command money. With the finest climate in the world, with a soil unsurpassed, with every condition favorable to the growth of food crops, the tenant farmers and the small farmers seeking credit have been driven to the over-production of cotton. This has been done in utter contempt of oft-repeated warnings and the soundest advice. Greed has been deaf to every appeal.

How shall the cotton crop of 1915 be restricted and by whom? The Federal government will not undertake it. The State governments are now and will continue to be directed by the influence of the very men who have done the mischief. The prospect for restriction by government action is without foundation. And yet this very extremity is the grandest opportunity for the cotton States. Our hope lies in the sale of lands owned by all-cotton men to practical farmers who will raise food crops. The same amount of labor and expense that will produce a bale of cotton will produce a hundred dollars worth of food for man and beast. At present we have some farmers who cultivate their own land and have the means and credit sufficient to keep them out of the power of the cotton oligarchy. Such farmers produce grain, hay, vegetables, fruits, live stock, poultry, eggs and dairy products. We only need to increase their number.

The cultivation of an all cotton crop is largely the cause of white illiteracy in certain cotton, States. The children that should be at school are kept at home to pick cotton from August till Christmas. Instead of cotton being our most profitable crop, it has hindered the prosperity of the common people of the South. The boll weevil and the world war will really benefit the South if they give us farmers producing food crops instead of cotton.

ROBERT McPHEETERS, SR.

INFORMATION AS TO HOG CHOLERA SERUM

Advertiser 11-26-14

Dr. C. A. Cary, State Veterinarian at Auburn, has issued the following bulletin regarding cholera serum in its relation to conditions in Alabama:

Auburn, Ala., November 24, 1914.

"To all parties in Alabama who purchase hog cholera serum:

"You are requested to purchase hog cholera serum in States where there exists no contagious foot and mouth disease. This means that it is safest to buy no serum from the North or West.

"Alabama farmers can secure serum from the State Hog Chelora Serum Laboratory at Nashville, Tenn., or the one at Athens, Ga.

"The county demonstrators in Alabama can direct parties who wish to buy in regard to the quantity of serum required and they can also inoculate the hogs for the farmers,

Yours truly,

"C. A. CARY,

"State Veterinarian."

Agriculture—1914

Improvement of

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Retyped for publication 11-26-14

IMMIGRATION.

Editor The Advertiser:

At present there is much discussion of the question of immigration in Alabama, and at the same time there is much criticism of the Department of Immigration and a strong sentiment in favor of its abolition by the next Legislature.

Alabama has an excellent immigration law, but it has not accomplished much.

The principal reason of this is the department has not had enough money to accomplish much.

Under Section 829 of the Code of 1907, $2,400 is appropriated annually for the salary of the Immigration Commissioner, and under Section 835 of the Code of 1907, $5,000 is appropriated annually for expenses.

After the payment of clerk hire and postage, not much is left to comply with the provisions of the law.

Under present conditions should the Immigration Department be abolished, or should there be a larger appropriation for the department and a supreme effort made to secure immigration?

It is universally admitted that Alabama imperatively demands more people, a larger population.

People are absolutely necessary for the development and advancement of any State, or section.

Cities, counties and States must, like individuals, depend upon themselves for prosperity and development.

Their people must be energetic, enterprising and progressive.

They must not keep their lights hid under a bushel

They must advertise their resources.

They must let the world know their advantages and what inducements they have to offer to immigrants.

Eternal vigilance, activity and intelligence are the prices of success and improvement.

Comparisons are frequently the best methods of showing what has been accomplished and what remains to be done.

Alabama has been admitted into the Union nearly one hundred years.

Alabama contains 51,998 square miles of land, and according to the census of 1910, 2,138,093 population.

Jefferson, Montgomery and Mobile are the three principal centers of industrial activity and development in Alabama, Jefferson in the mining district, Montgomery in the agricultural district, and Mobile in the commercial district.

The following are the areas in square miles, population, assessment of property for taxation in these districts:

Jefferson District.

	Area.	Population.	Assessment.
Jefferson	1,092	226,474	$141,072,422.00
Blount	752	21,456	5,118,704.00
Shelby	772	26,949	8,883,144.00
St. Clair	648	20,715	6,040,450.00
Tuscaloosa	1,346	47,559	14,912,975.00
Walker	824	37,013	11,690,330.00
Total	5,434	380,168	$187,668,029.00

Montgomery District.

Montgomery	772	82,178	$ 34,214,682.00
Autauga	660	20,058	4,229,740.00
Bibb	625	22,791	5,360,723.00
Bullock	640	30,196	5,283,978.00
Chilton	710	23,187	5,211,216.00
Crenshaw	640	23,313	3,797,258.00
Dallas	954	54,401	14,085,002.00
Elmore	652	28,245	5,806,532.00
Lowndes	720	31,894	4,890,464.00
Macon	622	26,049	5,247,883.00
Pike	710	30,815	6,965,871.00
Total	7,705	372,127	$ 95,094,343.00

Mobile District.

Mobile	1,234	80,854	$ 45,093,410.00
Baldwin	1,620	18,178	7,709,182.00
Choctaw	816	18,483	4,084,268.00
Clarke	1,160	30,978	4,565,196.00
Escambia	972	18,889	7,071,898.00
Washington	1,050	14,404	3,939,072.00
Total	6,852	181,795	$ 72,463,026.00

Average population in Alabama to the square mile 41

Average population in Jefferson District to the square mile 69

Average population in Montgomery District to the square mile 48

Average population in Mobile District to the square mile 26

Jefferson county is in the center of the mining district in Alabama.

It is one of the richest mining sections in the world.

Its coal, iron and other minerals are practically inexhaustible and of incalculable value.

Montgomery county is the center of one of the finest agricultural sections in the United States.

Its geographical location and railroad facilities will make it a great manufacturing center.

Mobile is Alabama's only port and one of the fines in the United States

Practically all of the rivers of Alabama empty into Mobile Bay.

It has a soil and climate that will make it equal of Florida and Louisiana in fruit production.

It has excellent railroad facilities that bring it in close commercial relations with the mineral district of Alabama and the great grain fields of the West.

The commerce of Mobile with Mexico, the West India Islands and the South and Central American countries is already large, and the completion of the Panama Canal brings it in commercial relations with Chile, and Peru; with China, with its 400,000,000 population; India with 300,000,000, and Japan with its 60,000,000.

What Alabama needs is more people.

There are countries in Europe with one-tenth of the natural resources of Alabama and not one-fourth of the area that have 10,000,00, or 15,000,000 population.

Some of these people are now engaged in the most terrible conflict in history.

After the termination of this war, tens of thousands of them will emigrate to escape from its destruction, devastation, desolation and the exactions of taxation that will result from the war.

These are hard working, industrious, honest people that will make good citizens.

They are the very kind of people that Alabama needs.

Not only would the immigration of thousands of these people into Alabama cause a great appreciation in the value of lands and an unprecedented development of our State, but it would help solve the negro problem by causing a dissemination of the negro population.

Now is the golden opportunity to obtain this immigration.

Not only the Boards of Trade, commercial organizations and railroads should assist in this work, but the State of Alabama and every county in it should co-operate.

Would it not be wiser for Alabama to appropriate a few thousands of dollars more and advertise the unsurpassed resources of the State, translate the advertisements into the languages of the people we wish to come to our State and distribute them among them?

Can we afford to neglect this opportunity?

Will we ever have a better one?

J. T. GORMAN

Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 25, 1914.

GORMAN ADVISES BUREAU CONTINUE

State Examiner Thinks Abolition of Immigration Department Unwise

The Montgomery Advertiser 11/19/14.

BOOKS ARE EXAMINED

The wisdom of the movement to abolish the Department of Immigration is questioned by Major J. T. Gorman, Examiner of Public Accounts, in his report to Governor O'Neal on the affairs of this bureau. The report was made public yesterday. It is the belief of the Examiner that the present laws governing this department are adequate and that, with proper administration and reasonable financial provision, it can be made one of the State's most potent agencies for agricultural and individual development.

He frankly concedes that the department is practically of no value, with a total annual appropriation of only $7,400, the sum now set aside for its operation. It occurs to him, however, that an Immigration Bureau can be made of untold worth to the State in the next few years by reason of the conditions that will follow in the wake of the strife overseas.

Quotation from Code.

Major Gorman quotes at length in his report from sections of the code dealing with the duties of this department and directs attention to the very clear provisions for placing the home-making resources of the State before the people of other sections and other nations.

The report follows in part:

"In obedience to instructions received from the executive office, I have examined the books, accounts and vouchers of Hon. Lee Cowart, Commissioner of Immigration, from October 1, 1913, to September 30, 1914.

"All of the disbursements of this department are made through the Auditors' office. Under Section 829 of the Code of 1907, the Commissioner receives a salary of $2,400 per annum.

Under Section 835 of the Code of 1907, $5,000 is appropriated annually for carrying out the provisions of the immigration law, and for paying the traveling expenses of the Commissioner. This makes an annual appropriation of $7,400 for this department.

Department Disbursements.

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 1914, the disbursements of this Department were as follows:

Lee Cowart, Commissioner, salary	$2,400.00
Expenses	3,985.00
Total	$6,385.40

For the four fiscal years ending September 30, 1914, from October 1, 1910, to September 30, 1914, the disbursements were as follows:

Salaries	$ 9,451.60
Expenses	16,149.36
Total	$25,600.96

There is much criticism of the Immigration Department, and there is a strong sentiment in favor of its abolition. In fact, the abolition of the Immigration Department and the Bureau of Cotton Statistics seem to be the only two measures for the relief of the financial condition of the State upon which there is unanimity of opinion.

As previously stated, the appropriation for the Immigration Department is $7,400 annually, and for the Bureau of Cotton Statistics it is $3,000, total $10,400. It is true, with the present appropriation, the Immigration Department cannot accomplish much, but is it wise and judicious to abolish it at the present time?

In timber, water power, manufacturing locations, railroad facilities, minerals, agriculture, and all the potential elements of wealth, Alabama is one of the richest States in the Union. One of the most imperative needs of the State is more people, a larger population. Alabama contains 51,279 square miles and had in 1910 a population of 2,138,000, 41 to the square mile.

Many sections in Europe, with not one-tenth of the natural resources of Alabama, contain within the same area 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 population.

Soil Not Cultivated.

It is stated that 16,000,000 acres of Alabama's fertile soil is not in cultivation. In the production of oranges and other fruits, South Alabama can be made to equal Florida, Louisiana and California. The development of its inexhaustible mineral resources is in its infancy. Alabama has one magnificent port, Mobile, which should be the pride of all Alabamians, and that port is in close proximity to the Panama Canal, which has just been completed.

With the completion of the Panama Canal, Alabama is brought in close commercial relations with China with its 400,000,000 population, with India with its 300,000,000, with Japan with its 60,000,000 and all the western countries of South America.

If we take advantage of our present opportunities, we can reasonably expect an era of unprecedented prosperity and development. At present, most of the countries in Europe, from which we wish immigrants, are engaged in the most terrific conflict in history. There is no question but that after the termination of this war that tens of thousands of people from those countries will emigrate to the United States, to escape the devastation, destruction and desolation of that war and the exactions of taxation that will necessarily follow. It is universally admitted that Alabama needs more people.

Now which is the wisest course, abolish our Immigration Department

or make a reasonable increase in the appropriation, advertise our resources, and make a supreme effort to obtain some of that European immigration?

Senator Cummins and the Jones Amendment.

To the Editor of The Age:

In answer to an editorial in The Age some weeks ago in regard to Senators Cummins and Kenyon of Iowa, voting against the appropriation for agricultural colleges, I write to submit the following facts:

That the Agricultural Extension Bill there was a provision providing that in those states which had two or more agricultural colleges the legislatures of such states should determine what colleges should have the appropriation. Senator Jones of Washington, offered an amendment, which is a substantial copy of the law relating to former appropriations to agricultural colleges, and which had never been of any material value to the colored people. Senator Cummins was making a speech against the provision in the bill, permitting the legislatures of the various states to decide where the appropriation should go, for it was perfectly manifest that if the legislatures were permitted to decide, the colored colleges in the South would get no benefit whatever.

Senator Cummins must have made some impression, because, during his speech Senator Shafroth of Cololrado, rose and said that he thought it was right and suggested instead of the Jones Amendment the bill be so changed that it would require the joint act of the Governor of a State and the Secretary of Agriculture, and he sked Mr. Cummins what he thought of such a provision.

Senator Cummins immediately answered that such a provision would be better than the Jones Afendment, and still thinks so. It will certaintly do more to get part of this money into the hands of the colored people than the Jones Amendment. Senator Shafroth immediately offered that sort of an amendment to the original bill and it was adopted.

Then, of course, the Jones Amendment came up, which would have stricken out what Senator A. B. Cummins had already secured and to which he had agreed, and of course he was compelled to vote against the Jones Amendment.

I hope you will now readily see that Senator A. B. Cummins was the only man who succeeded in getting anything into the bill that would give the Negro a chance for his rights.

Respectfully yours,

J. M. JONES.

Des Moines, Ia.

EMANUEL COUNTY AND ITS COLORED PEOPLE.

By R. G. McAden.

He or she who prescribes the limits of life's success by town and city territory, discounting the rural brother and placing thereon the badge of inferiority and financial weakness, calculates without insight and knowledge and estimates woefully and lamentably.

City does not make the man, nor is it the sphere and measure of men and success. They who estimate the rural districts with an occupancy of destitution and ignorance and as consumate foreigners to the lofty ideals of exalted citizenship, go wrong and inflict an injustice that is ruinous to growing humanity.

In Emanuel, far from the railway, they are developing the muscle, manners, the intellectual and the spiritual and are matriculating and completing the course in these blended spheres, thereby presenting evidences, that living in the country is no embargo to that which marks the successful man. Perhaps the exceptional and most prevalent view of the various sections of Emanuel is encouched in splendid church edifices, and a general boost of an educated ministry whose characters are most generally looked upon with favor. Be it said to the credit of the Emanuel pulpit that they not only have achieved this victory but they are incessantly declaring in favor of well equipped teachers, modern school rooms and longer terms to be brought forth by individual effort of a community's make-up. As a result, there is a mighty and favorable educational awakening in the county. It seems to be a ministerial compact, effectually operating, to rear boys and girls upon whose tombstones will not be written: "This life was a signal failure."

Viewed from a financial point, I desire to point to some characters who are prominent in every vital warp of the county. In Emanuel, perhaps, the colored man has made progress, especially land holdings which is unsurpassed by any county in Georgia. Jim Green owns eighteen hundred acres with fully eight hundred under profitable cultivation, and eighty cows horses, mules and such implements as are needed to operate the farms of his various tenants. It is significant to know that his vast aggregation is of the kind used on the most improved farms. Mr. Green is unlettered, but has a fertile mind, and continues to prosper.

Jart Durden owns two thousand acres, and is making money from his well developed and diversified farm career.

Jessie Green owns seven hundred and fifty acres and is one of the most substantial men of the county. He is easily worth twenty thousand dollars.

John McLain is the possessor of one hundred and eighty acres, makes plenty of corn, forage and raises his own meat.

J. C. Williams holds a warranty deed for two hundred acres, is a good farmer and helpful citizen.

B. F. Allen, Chairman of Republican Executive Committee of the county, has to his credit two hundred and fifty acres, a large number of Jersey cows. the best mules. horses and everything needed on his farm, which is considered to be one of the best in the county. Mr. Allen holds several positions of trust in school, church and fraternal bounds.

G. W. Williams, a large land owner is one of the best known young men in the county. He is a leading light in general community life, and keeps progressive movements on foot in the county.

Mr. Weatherspool is an extensive land owner, a good farmer and taxpayer of large standing.

Rev. D. W. Wynn owns a valuable farm.

Oscar Wiggs has nearly six hundred acres and is a prosperous business man.

The Colbert brothers are land owners and pay taxes on a few thousand dollars' worth of holdings.

Mrs. Lucy Pughsley is rated at ten thousand dollars. Few homes in Georgia surpass hers in design, and hardly any in furnishings.

J. C. Twiggs is a big property owner and mechanic of skill and ability.

T. H. Belton is a leading merchant.

Mrs. Lucy Green runs a neat business.

H. H. Mays is a man well known, because of his manly strides to succeed. It is especially pleasing to know that each name mentioned aside from a score of others, live in homes containing from four to eight rooms, either ceiled or plastered, and as neatly kept as any in any city in Georgia.

The teachers and preachers, at least one-third, are products of Atlanta Baptist College, Atlanta University, Morris Brown University and other reputable institutions.

There were three colored men, who together, made eleven hundred bushels of corn last year.

Possibly two of the most widely known characters in the county are Rev. Frank Williams and Rev. J. P. Wilcher. The rooming capacity of their homes hits the number sixteen. Several hundred acres of land, several town lots and much valuable property are accredited to their individual accounts and personal efforts.

George W. Oliver is a leading farmer, has reared a large and interesting family, is educating and teaching the example of thrift and industry and making good.

In missions of life, missions of home and church, the colored people of Emanuel county are setting a wholesome pace and are demonstrating that rural life, when engineered by brain push and invincible will power, will shine gloriously for man's uplift and success.

They are showing that there is money on the farm; they are cementing the fact that scores of young educated colored men are content on the farm when progressive steps predominate as they do in Emanuel.

No person who entertains favorable hopes of the race can visit Emanuel without receiving inspiration. When the fact looms up that colored people own 220,000 thousand farms embracing twenty million acres, in this country; and when the tax record of this one county shows the ownership of forty thousand acres by Negroes, it is enough to inspire and spur on to fields of victory.

UPLIFT WORKERS PASS RESOLUTIONS

Co-operation in Work Is Urged Before Conference of Charities and Corrections—Southern Negro Wants Money

Atlanta Georgian 5-15-14

MEMPHIS, TENN., May 14.—Closer affiliation between the national and State organizations and the appointment of State corresponding secretaries by the general secretary, looking to this end, was emphasized resolutions adopted at today's session of the national conference on charities and corrections. The report of the committee on organization, naming the standing committees for the next year and outlining their work, also was adopted. Chairman of standing committees were named as follows:

C. C. Carstens, Boston, Mass., committee on children; J. T. Gilmour Toronto, Ontario, corrections; George S. Wilson, Washington, D. C., public and private charities; R. M. Little, Philadelphia, family and community; Dr. Walter E. Fernald, state care of insane, feebleminded and epipeleptic; Porter R. Lee, New York, education for social work; Dr. Richard C. Cabot, Boston, health; H. R. Seager, New York, social legislation, and Mrs. Martha Falcober, Darlington, Pa., social hygiene

At a brief afternoon session of the conference the report of the Executive Committee, recommending that the conference do not concur in the nominating committee's report that hereafter three names be submitted to popular vote of the conference for president, was adopted.

A motion by Roger N. Baldwin, of St. Louis, was adopted providing that the next president appoint a committee to make suggestions for changes in the by-laws to make broader and more popular methods for the nomination and election of officers of the conference.

Some Resolutions Fail.

Resolutions which failed in committee included committing the conference to abolition of capital punishment; endorsement of the Palmer-Owen bill for Federal regulation of child labor; to a protest against war with Mexico; to the initiative and referendum with home rule for cities and to nationwide suppression of traffic in alcoholic beverages. Unfavorable report was made on those motions on the ground that the constitution of the conference prohibits formulation of platforms.

Sectional meetings preceding the regular session treated the subjects of "improvement of rural life," "treatment of women offenders," and "laws affecting children." One of the principal papers was by Booker T. Washington, head of the negro school at Tuskegee, Ala., on "the rural negro in the south."

Declaring that a large percentage of the banking business of the South had for its basis the negro and the mule, Washington pointed out that two-thirds of the South's cotton was raised by negroes and explained the living and working conditions of these negroes.

The exodus of valuable colored laborers from the farming sections to the cities has its basis in the desire of the negro to handle real cash, according to Washington. "The negro likes to put his hands on real money as often as possible, and on the farm they seldom see cash," he said. "In the city, while he is not so well off in the long run, he is usually paid off in cash every Saturday night."

White people of the South are more generally interested in the education of the negro than ever before, Washington said, and results are becoming apparent in more efficient labor.

Agriculture – 1914

Improvement of THE MARKET FOR FARM PRODUCTS.

Advertiser 12-26-14

The discussion of certain and assured markets for crops other than cotton, as that discussion developed at the Rotary Club was too important to be dismissed by a mere news story. The committee from the Rotary Club, charged with the specific duty of helping to establish such a market, has been energetic in its labors, and in the matter of public education upon the subject has much to its credit.

The Rotary Club meeting developed the fact that there is now a steady and assured market in Montgomery for corn, oats, wheat and syrup. Any of these products brought to the city at any time and in any quantity, can be sold at market prices for cash. It is now of importance that this assured market should be extended to other farm products.

In his interesting talk before the Rotary Club Prof. J. F. Duggar, of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Auburn emphasized two important factors in the creation and maintenance of an assured market for all supplies. The first of these is uniformity in all the articles offered for sale, and the importance of being able to handle such articles in car load lots. Alabama grown corn can, for instance be cited as an example of the need of uniformity if such corn is sold to be shipped to other markets. A carload of western corn runs true to its grade. It is all of one kind. The purchaser is certain to find the car to come up to specifications, or he has recourse to the seller. This was not always the case, but such principles of trade have now been established and shipped corn must be of even and uniform grade. At present all the home grown corn that can be spared for sale is taken in the local market, but if it were shipped certain difficulties would inevitably arise. The grade would not be even and uniform. The seed has not been so carefully selected as has been the seed of western corn, and all of it would not be white corn, for instance, if a car should be made up.

Again new trade conditions demand uniform threshing and uniform sacks for oats. In older days, even oats were shipped from the west in sacks of dissimilar sizes. But of late, for the benefit of quick transit easy bookkeeping, all sacks of oats are of the same size. The farmer will readily see the necessity for uniformity in marketing his products.

Prof. Duggar, also, strongly advocated the plan of having co-operative selling clubs. Such clubs would be powerful agencies, not only in securing top prices for farm products, but in establishing uniformity of the products offered for sale. The signal success achieved in this direction by the Nut-growers of California, the Onion growers of Texas, and similar organizations was aptly cited at the meeting. These organizations eliminated the swindles that is the proper word, the swindles perpetrated by middlemen upon producers.

Another interesting feature of the meeting was an outline of the plan adopted by the business men of Vicksburg to establish a continuous assured market for live stock. Vicksburg has been in the wake of the boll weevil for many years. It is usual, with the coming of the boll weevil for farmers to turn to stock raising, but in cities like Montgomery and Vicksburg a dozen head of cattle is likely to glut the local market for two or three days. To offer this market the business men of Vicksburg organized a livestock association with the small capital stock of twenty-five hundred dollars. It was not intended that the association should make money and it has not made money. But it has provided a continuous and stable market for livestock, and by doing so has turned into the channels of trade of Vicksburg thousands and thousands of dollars. The association maintain a stockyard under the direction of an expert, who attends to the care and shipping of the cattle—a man who draws a straight salary. A low charge is made against each cow offered for sale—enough to pay the running expenses of the association The farmer is relieved of the problem of trying to get up a car load of steers and of the business worries attendant upon the sale, shipping and collection for such a car load. After several years of operation the association has cleared no dividends but it has paid expenses and it has put many thousands of dollars into circulation.

The city of Montgomery will hear more of this effort to put on a certain local market for farm products; and it is well that the business men and the farmers should be kept informed of the progress of the work.

Memphis Scimitar

DEC 5 1914

THE DELTA NEGROES

The North Mississippi Methodist conference, now in session, composed of white people, reports a condition of prosperity existing that is most gratifying. With the colored people, and especially the colored people in the Mississippi Delta, the case is quite the reverse, if an article written by M. M. Ponton, occupying over three columns in the Southern Christian Recorder, gives a fair picture of existing conditions among his people. While living in the richest country in the world, they are in a state bordering on destitution. The race is not a thrifty one and literally obeys the Bible in taking no heed of the morrow, as a general thing, and when the usual sources of sustenance become clogged up the colored people of the rural districts find themselves in a sad plight. Ponton declares that the negroes who have raised cotton can find no market for it, because no one wants to buy it. They have but little to sell, because at prevailing prices when they pay off their rent notes and supply accounts there is little left. They are eking out a temporary and none too profitable existence at the present time by picking cotton, but as this industry will come to an end in the near future, and as the merchants cannot supply them to make another crop, he is distressed to contemplate just what is going to happen. This writer is outspoken and severe on the leading members of his own race who have betrayed and defrauded the confiding ignorant, through banks that have gone to pieces, carrying the deposits of the industrious, and through benevolent organizations and societies that have been acting as supposed friends and financial agents of the unfortunate. In one part of his article, he says:

"During the last eight years, ten out of a dozen negro banks, where the leading negroes of the state had absolute control, have gone to the wall. Some of them carried the small savings of many of our poor people. Add to this the failure of the financial side of many of the fraternal orders, such as the Masonic Benefit association, the Reformers and the Tabors and others, where the race had been piling thousands for years. But in the hour of the negro's greatest need all this saving was swept away from him. For this crime against the confidence of this people no excuse is offered. No apology is made. Blame is laid at no man's door. At the head of some of these institutions was influence and active participation of the negro minister. Thus the confidence of these people has been shaken not only in the institution that went down, but in the leadership of the minister who participated in them. 'Tis the plantation negro and the unfortunate preacher, the rural backwoods negro, that great mass the common horde, upon which the church, schools and the lodge have been and must for years to come depend for revenue."

Certainly this is a dark and dismal picture, but the light of faith is not wholly extinguished. This writer ventures the surmise that "this condition of the negro at the bottom, is a reproduction of Israel's furnace of affliction out of which came Moses, the lawgiver, the leader and the deliverer. Who knows but that God is birthing a Moses out of the parturition of these awful times? What the people of this section need is a true leadership; a Moses born out of the awful times in which they live." A Moses may come, and there is plenty of room for him, but with the black man, as with the white man, the Moses must appear in each individual who should learn by experience that the grasshopper life, that sings its sunny days away, content with what it needs for the time being, is a perilous existence, and is likely to come to grief at the approach of trouble.

ALABAMA FARMER SHOULD RAISE HIS FOOD--HE WOULD THEN GROW RICH

Richard Hobbie Asks State Bankers To Refuse Aid To One-Crop-Man

Advertiser 11-22-14

DIVERSIFY AND PROSPER

State Spends An 100 Million A Year For Western Foods

COULD GROW ALL HERE

That the greatest aid to the problem of the South is to reduce the expense side of the account; to diversify, and raise food stuff that is now bought from the West at a high price is the opinion of R. M. Hobbie, prominent wholesale merchant, who in an address before a recent convention of Alabama Bankers, pleaded for co-operation in bringing about diversity.

In his address Mr. Hobbie urged the bankers to get away from the idea that cotton is the only collateral security acceptable from a farmer, stating his belief that the time had come when the business methods of the South must be almost wholly revolutionized, and that during this change the farmers would need the financial aid and the moral support of the bankers.

Money Goes West.

Mr Hobbie in the course of his talk pointed out the fact that every year Alabama sends West for grain and other products, more than $100,000,000 and that every commodity bought with this money could be raised in Alabama as cheaply as it is raised in the West and much cheaper than it can be bought from the West.

Many other interesting facts are shown in the address of Mr. Hobbie, which follows in full:

"I appreciate highly the honor conferred upon me by Mr. Walker in giving me the privilege of addressing this assembly of bankers.

"The bankers of a country, for centuries past, but more completely now than ever heretofore, rang high among the custodians of the Nation's future. This gives to the deliberations of a body such as yours profound and far reaching significance.

"We are facing a condition without parallel in history, without guiding precedents by which we might lay our course. We have what will doubtless prove to be our largest and best cotton crop and yet we are unable to pay our this year's debts, and we have determined on no fixed policy for next year's crop.

"I was born in town, raised in an office and have little first hand knowledge of farming. I am not, however, like the old maid who thought her mission in life was to tell mothers how to raise their children. I am not trying to tell the farmers in our State how to farm, nor would I attempt to tell a banker how to run his bank. I do wish, however, to plead with you for the farmer who will diversify, to get you away from the idea that cotton is the only collateral security a farmer can offer for the repayment of a loan, for I believe that the time has come when the business methods of the South must be almost wholly revolutionized, from the farmer up, and that during this time of change, we will all need not only your financial aid but your moral support.

Reduce the Expenses.

"I have reached the conclusion, based on seventeen years of handling grain and heavy groceries, that the solution of our problem will be largely aided in reducing the expense side of the account. While here, I want to go on record as being opposed to the lending of money even on cotton, although it would enable my house to collect thousands of dollars which we will otherwise carry over, by the individual banker, by a syndicate of bankers, by

the State, through a bond issue, or the Federal Government, by the issue of currency on any other basis than the actual market value of the product. I would not, however, have you construe any remark that I may make as an attempt to belittle the value of cotton—cotton, the one commodity in the raising of which the South has a practical monopoly, the one commodity which gives the United States a financial standing among the nations. For forty years we have paid our debts to Europe with cotton and preserved our gold. Cotton exports bring more money than wheat, corn, and iron combined. It turns the balance of trade in our favor against a world.

For the last several years, each year, cotton and cotton seed have brought the South practically one thousand million dollars, a billion dollars of money. Has it ever occurred to any one of you how little, how pitifully little, of this enormous sum which cotton brings, remains in the South which grew it?

About two years ago, on the floor of the Grain Exchange at Omaha, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Merriam—of the Merriam and Millard Co, large grain dealers and terminal elevator operators—a tall, dignified highly educated old gentleman. I was invited to call on him at his office, and went. During the conversation, this old gentleman, who had gone west as a young man and witnessed the marvelous growth of that part of our country, began to tell me of the wonderful prosperity of the West. Of her cattle covered plains, of her millions of bushels of wheat and of corn and of oats. Of her vast areas of alfalfa and of timothy. Of her great bank deposits. He pointed with special pride to her country bank deposits and made what, to me, was an astounding statement, that those deposits were put there by the farmers, by the grain growing, cattle raising farmers of the West.

"If this prosperity continues," he said, "In a few years we will move the financial headquarters of our country from New York to Chicago," I have often thought of this talk with Mr. Merriam, for this South, which you and I love so well is the West's best customer.

Money Goes To West

"Year in and year out, good year and bad, hot or cold, dry or wet, through high price or low, the South has gone on raising cotton, sent it out to an appreciative world and brought home gold, merely to turn and pour it into the coffers of the west. We go to Colorado for baled alfalfa hay and pay $10.40 per ton freight in car-load lots to Montgomery, more money than the farmer gets who raises it. We ship timothy in train-load lots from Illinois, yet Alabama has about 240 grass growing days, counting from the last frost in the spring to the first frost in the fall, and Illinois has only about 160. We go to far-away California and pay a handsome profit to the farmer out there for black-eyed, white peas and dried butter beans, and pay the Transcontinental railroads more than $400.00 per car freight to Montgomery.

"The experts in our departments of agriculture tell us that cattle and hogs and sheep can be raised in the South for less than five cents a pound and yet, in the city of Montgomery, one firm sold ninety thousand dollars of hog meat during the month of September. Every year Alabama sends West for grain, for grain products, for flour provisions and baled hay, more than one hundred million dollars, not one dollar of which ever comes back, for commodities, every one of which can be raised in Alabama, if not as cheaply as in the West, certainly for less money than we pay for them.

Large Grain Business

"A large portion of the business of the wholesale grocer is in handling grain. To make money in the grain business, you must work all day and think half the night. You must watch it closer than a banker watches his daily discount sheet. You must keep your finger on the pulse of the market every hour in the day. I have made it a rule to go West at least once every year. During the last several trips, I have not been satisfied to talk only with the big grain men on the floors of the exchanges in the terminal markets, but have gone out to the country stations and talked with the country station buyer and the farmer from whom he buys.

"Take the one grain—corn. Last spring, the average price paid the farmer in Iowa, the largest corn producing State in the Union, was 55 cents per bushel. This farmer planted, cultivated, harvested and hauled to the country station and sold his corn for 55 cents, made a profit and put the money in the bank to show for it. The country station buyer either draws a salary from the Terminal Elevator Company or, if he works on his own account, makes a profit. The average freight from the country station to the Terminal Eleveator is about 5 cents per hundred. When this corn reaches the Terminal Elevator, if it has not already been shelled, is shelled, cleaned and graded. We grain dealers of the South buy our corn from these terminal elevators, paying them a minimum profit of 10 per cent, and when the demand is as it has been during the last several years, very keen, have been forced to pay them some times as high as 15 per cent profit. The freight from Council Bluffs to Montgomery is 32 cents per hundred, and, after the first of Decemebr, next, will be 33 cents. If this corn should move through Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis or any one of the Ohio River crossings, the freight from the country station to Montgomery will be the same, for it is equalized through the re-shipping privileges granted these points by the railroads.

Handled at Expense.

"We handle this corn in Montgomery at some expense. We sack it at an exrense of 4 cents per bushel. We endeavor to make a minimum profit of 5 cents when we sell it to the advancing merchant, we will say, at Enterprise. This advancing merchant pays a freight of 12 cents a hundred from Montgomery and he sells it to the farmer at a profit. The farmer furnishes a wagon and team and the labor necessary to haul the corn from the advancing merchant's store to his farm. When he gets it there, it has cost him not a cent less than a dollar and a quarter a bushel. He has paid a dollar and a quarter a bushel for the same corn that the Iowa farmer sold for 55 cents, an advance of 125 per cent.

"Now, I do not believe that I am wholly bereft of common sense—at any rate, Dr. Searcy, of Tuscaloosa, has not caught me yet,—but you could not hammer it out of my head with a sledge hammer that I, without expert knowledge of farming, could not, in this Garden Spot of God's Creation, raise corn for less than $1,25 per bushel when that farmer in Iowa, of only ordinary intelligence, sold it at 55 cents per bushel, made a profit(and has the money in the bank to prove it.

"Now, what is true of corn is in a greater or less degree true of wheat and oats and packing house products and baled hay. Now, when we attempt to encourage the farmers in our State to raise these foods and feed crops, at home, we are talking against our own business and the business of every wholesale grocer in our State, for these items make up a large portion of our business. I believe that I have sense enough to know and that the others do, but if there are a few who do not, this War, followed by the Boll Weevil, will certainly demonstrate that no individual or collection of individuals who, in order to manufacture, to grow or to create, in any way, any commodity, who spends more in the process than that commodity brings, can succeed. The farmer who raises all cotton and who spends more for supplies of all nature than his cotton brings, cannot succeed nor can he pay all his debts. When he cannot pay his debts, he injures the advancing mercnant and, through the advancing merchant, he injures us, and if we persist in continuing this method of handling our business, it is just a question of years before the whole system breaks down and,look out, Mr. Banker, when we go down, we don't carry some of you with us.

"Alabama last year, according to Hester's report, raised One Million Five Hundred and Thirty Thousand bales of cotton. To pay for the food and feed stuffs shipped into Alabama this cotton would have to bring $70 a bale, and this price does not include a dollar for fertilizers, for the other necessities of life, such as colthing, not a dollar for taxes, for life insurance premiums, for pleasures or for the few luxuries that some of us crave.

Near Overproduction.

"To meet this unsatisfied obligation, shall we increase our production of cotton? Are we not already dangerously near, if indeed we have not already crossed the line of overproduction; leaving out the demoralization of our European Market and the fact that it will doubtless take several years after this War has ended to rehabilitate that market? If we do increase the production, what will be its effect on the price? The Atlanta Journal, on November 8, in its editorial column, makes the statement that Georgia last year spent Thirty-Seven Million Dollars more for food products shipped into their State than their cotton crop brought. Alabama sent West more than One Hundred Million Dollars. That is more money than the total deposits in the Banks of our State, both National and State, combined. How long are we going to deceive ourselves into believing that we can make more money per acre raising cotton?

"Isn't it true that by raising these staple food and feed products at home we can keep at home a good, big portion of the money our cotton brings A Hundred Million Dollars. Just suppose for one instant you had it in your vaults today. How little and insignificant would it make that enormous Fifteen Millions of re-disc-

Would you be scrambling for Emergency Currency?

"If you had it in your vaults would we be holding out the hand to the East, North and the West in the Buy-a-Bale movement? Would we be calling on our Federal Government to valorize cotton at 2c or 3c per pound more than its market value?

Refuse Your Aid.

"You are business men and we would not think of asking you to depart from your principles of safe, sound and conservative banking, but we do ask you to refuse positively your aid to that customer who avows his intention to plant all cotton again next year. On the other hand, for that customer who will pledge himself to plant at least one-third of his land in food crops on which to sustain his family, and one-third in feed crops, with which to feed his stock and cattle, and the balance in cotton, we beg your help. Go with that man to the limit, if his collateral is satisfactory and the moral risk is good.

"We believe that the first year, if he raises only cotton enough to pay your last loan and if he is unable to sell a dollar's worth of his surplus food and feed crops, that you and he will both be better off in that he will have a support for the next year, and will not need your aid. His second cotton crop can go on his old indebtedness and will doubtless bring a higher price and if properly encouraged, we believe that it is then a question of only a few years when that man will cease to be a borrower, except for improvements on his farm, for better farming machinery, for better stock and better cattle, and become a depositor in your bank. You will have made an independent man of the farmer who today is absolutely dependent upon the farmer out West for the very bread he eats. To my mind, one of the grandest objects on God's foot-stool today is an independent man, one who can walk the earth with his head up and look the world in the eye and who bows his head, and that reverently, only to the God above. We can make Alabama independent only when we feed every Alabamian from the products of Alabama's soil.

Encourage Markets.

"But this isn't all we ask. We want you to go further. We want you to encourage the establishment of markets for farm products other than cotton. We would not ask the loan of one dollar for the man who would speculate. In times of stress like this, he would be a menace, not a help. We would not ask a dollar for the man who would attempt to establish a market, based on sentiment, it would fail. For the man who would attempt to establish a market merely to gain the plaudits of his fellow-man and on that to possibly ride into some political office, not a cent. But, to the clear-headed thinking, conservative business man, who, in order to insure the continued success of his own business, feels that he must not only continue to sell the farmer through the regular channels of trade, but must assist that farmer in finding outlets for his surplus farm products other than cotton; for that man, who will establish a market for one of these farm products and guarantee its stability and permanency by having the courage to ask a profit for his services, a legitimate margin of profit, for that man we ask both your financial and your moral support.

"If I were a dreamer—and sometimes the dreams which men dream do come true, the Panama Canal, a reality today, was but yesterday the dream of our own Senator Morgan—and I had a vision of the Alabama of tomorrow, I believe I would see, in going through any part of our great State, golden fields of wheat, following the waving field of yellow oats, green fields of corn and the white, blooming fields of cotton. On her Bermuda carpeted pastures, you would see the Black Angus and the white-faced Hereford, the proverbial cattle of a thousand hills. Around her dairies, the fawn-like Jersey. Truck gardens, fruit orchards and beautiful country homes. In her cities you would find mills grinding corn into meal, mills grinding wheat into flour, packing houses for the slaughter of cattle, hogs and sheep, great cotton mills, with thousands of spindles, each turning into its finished product, the raw material, drawn from its immediate neighborhood. And all driven by that silent, efficient, electrical energy, generated on our mighty rivers. Great warehouses, stored with cotton, the property of the farmer who grew it, and for sale only when the price suited that owner.

"Mr. Banker of Alabama, it is your privilege to assist in making a reality of what today is but a dream."

Agriculture—1914

Improvement of.

Practically No Market Here For Georgia Oats and Hay, Declare Leading Merchants

Constitution
12-1-14

The statement of Mrs. Nellie Peters Black, manager of the famous Richard Peters farm in Gordon county, published in Sunday's Constitution, that the farmers of Georgia have no market here for food crops, was supported to a large extent by a number of prominent Atlanta wholesale hay and grain merchants Monday.

W. L. Fain, of the W. L. Fain Grain company, 490 Marietta street, declared that Mrs. Black "had told the truth in plain language."

"Mrs. Black is right in saying that there is no market for Georgia-raised food crops," said Mr. Fain, "when she explained why Georgia farmers from year to year raise cotton, which can always be sold for ready money except under extraordinary conditions.

Preferred Western Oats.

"Mrs. Black states that she visited a number of Atlanta hay and grain merchants in an effort to sell 1,200 bushels of heavy oats raised on her farm, and that she failed to sell them because she was told that western oats was preferred.

"This is true. The Georgia climate hinders the proper curing of baled oats, and the same is true with other hay.

"In addition, the farmers do not put up their home-raised oats in proper shape for market. The oats are not prepared well enough, and not properly shelled. The right kind of bagging is not used, also. Our climate prevents curing the crop properly.

"There is a very poor local market for Georgia peavine hay. It is a fattening hay, and is not usually fed to work horses and mules in the city. The only market it has in Atlanta is with the dairymen, who feed good qualities of it, which are scarce, to the cows. It is also fed to the mules which are brought here during the winter to be sold.

"I would not advise any farmer to raise peavine hay with the view of selling it in this city. He will do very well to raise it for home use, though."

No Peavine Hay Market.

W. S. Duncan, of the W. S. Duncan company, 18 South Butler street, said there was practically no market for peavine hay.

"I would have bought Mrs. Peters' oats, though," stated Mr. Duncan, "provided the price was satisfactory, if she had offered them to us. Our company is handling a number of car loads of Georgia oats.

"However, western oats under ordinary conditions are preferred, and can be bought a little cheaper. The preparation of the oats by the farmers here is not entirely satisfactory. The farmers must be educated how to prepare their oats so as to be merchantable, and they must not ask retail prices for them."

Both Mr. Fain and Mr. Duncan said there was a local market for Georgia corn, stating that as a rule it was as good a quality of corn as raised in other states. They said that practically all the corn offered for sale was being bought.

Quality Questioned.

A. P. Morgan, of the A. P. Morgan Grain company, on the West Point railroad, said that his firm could not regularly purchase peavine hay raised in Georgia because no reliability could be placed in the quality of the hay.

"One carload," said Mr. Morgan, "might be perfectly good hay, and the next day we will receive a carload as black as tar. There is no reliability in the quality of this hay and, therefore, we cannot use it regularly. And, too, there is little market locally for it."

Mr. Morgan stated that his firm was handling at the present time a great deal of Georgia-raised corn, and that under ordinary circumstances Georgia corn could not be purchased as cheaply as western corn.

"Another trouble with Georgia hay," continued Mr. Morgan, "is that the farmers ask too much for it. Peavine hay usually is worth no more than $14 or $15 a ton, the very best qualities cured carefully, seldom bringing more than $18 or $20. Georgia farmers want the same price as is paid for timothy hay, from $23 to $26."

Lack of Uniformity.

J. D. Frazier, of the J. D. Frazier company, 268 Marietta street, said that lack of uniformity in the quality of Georgia hay and corn was largely responsible for there being no market for it here.

"The best peavine hay, properly cured and baled, though," said Mr. Frazier, "is being sold for $18 to $20 a ton. Our firm is handling quite a good deal of it. Peavine hay, when cut green with peas in it, makes an excellent hay but most farmers attempt to get the peas off first, and then cut the hay when it is too dry. I believe that if the people were educated more to the good qualities of peavine hay, it would have a better market. The best peavine hay is just as good hay as timothy."

A. C. Woolley, of A. C. Woolley & Co., 161 Madison avenue, said that he could sell good peavine hay, but the trouble was there was little of it. Georgia-raised corn, of good quality, is being given preference over western corn by the Woolley firm. "When peavine hay is properly cured, it will bring $18 a ton, and is as good hay as timothy," said Mr. Woolley.

Holbrook's Opinion.

E. A. Holbrook, of Holbrook & Smith, 310 Marietta street, spoke about the situation as follows:

"I would advise the farmers not to be misled by the fact that a good quantity of peavine hay is being bought in Atlanta now. It is only temporary, caused by the government's quarantining Michigan, Wisconsin, Canadian, and hay from other western states, due to the hoof and mouth disease among cattle, the cause of which is attributed to diseased hay raised in those sections. This temporary development has caused the local dealers to buy any kind of hay."

COMMENT UPON MR. HOBBIE'S RECENT ADDRESS

Mr. Richard Hobbie's recent address before the bankers in Montgomery, and published in The Advertiser, has attracted popular attention. Coming as it did from a wholesale grain dealer, his illuminating remarks were all the more forcible. Following is an interesting letter, which is good to print in this connection:

Advertiser
11-26-14

"Editor The Advertiser:

"When a note of truth is struck, its tone should be sounded until it echoes down the ages. The recent address before the State Bankers' Association of Mr. Richard Hobbie of this city is an accurate diagnosis of our diseased commercial system, while the suggested remedy, from one who profits by its continuance, challenges our respect and admiration. To remove the granaries and packing houses of the West to the South is no new thought—but the advocacy of this movement by a wholesale grocer is as new as it is refreshing.

11-26-14

"We censure the negro farmer, who week after week during the year, comes to town for supplies which should be grown on his place. The typical scene is a two-mule wagon, loaded with one bale of cotton, on which are perched a half dozen negroes; no chickens, no eggs, no butter, nothing but tha one bale of cotton—and all clinging to it for dear life, figuratively as well as literally. Yet how does the great State of Alabama differ from these improvident negroes, if we continue to ride on our single bale of cotton to Kansas City, Omaha, Chicago, and Minneapolis for supplies, when we should instead be carrying thither hogs, cattle, oats, corn and hay in the market basket under our arm?

"The situation is of sufficient importance to justify the concerted action of land owner, banker and merchant in the absolute control of the character of the 1915 crop—dictating just what crops should be planted—their variety and acreage. And having insisted that diversification is the solution of our agricultural difficulties, these same forces should at once arrange for a cash market when the wheat, corn, oats, peas, hogs, poultry and truck comes on to be marketed. For the marketing of ones produce is two-thirds of the farming game. Without a cash market, diversification will travel a hard row.

"Cotton is notably a lazy man's crop. No other crop can be so neglected, mistreated and ignored, and yet prove profitable to the grower. Its marketing is automatic, requiring no intelligence at all. Thus it has always proven attractive to the negro. If in the qquick transition from all cotton to grain and other crops, the negro does not prove competent and adaptable, his place can well be supplied from the resourceful and thrifty Belgians, Germans, French and Danish immigrants who in the natural course of events will seek America by thousands at the war's termination. With a net capital of experience, thrift, energy and ambition—though lacking in money itself—they should be as welcome to our idle, untilled lands as living waters to a desert. It is only as community creates wealth through manufacturing or agricultural production that it grows by leaps and bounds. In Montgomery County alone, there are enough cleared, untilled lands, that are absolutely 'lying out' to support a city twice the size of our proud city—if scientifically cultivated by progressive farmers.

LESLIE L. GILBERT."

Somebody Help "Uncle Eph"

By ISMA DOOLY.

Constitution
12-11-14

"Who is buying Uncle Eph's cotton?" I asked of a south Georgia planter the other day. Uncle Eph being a tenant farmer, representing that lovable type of the negro farmer whom the old south produced and whom the new south must now look after.

In the splendid activity of the "buy-a-bale" movement, which has not only been a factor in the solving of the present cotton problem, but one which has attracted world-wide interest to the south and her industries, and awakened the south herself to a more active interest in her best commercial and industrial asset, I plead for Uncle Eph.

I have seen him approaching his "boss" and "young missus," his big straw hat in hand, with a story of hard times, but an expression of good cheer and health. He represents a type the south needs in the working of her cotton plantations. He is her "tenant" farmer, he has preserved his knowledge of the cotton field as a heritage, and three generations of his family now work on many of the large "tenant" plantations of southwest Georgia. He and his sons and grandsons are good tillers of the soil; they are, with few exceptions, law-abiding. They live in "quarters" which still sound by night with the old plantation melodies, and they are active all day with industrious women, and a crop of pickaninnies that measure up to Rooseveltian standards.

They Suffer Now.

But now these are the ones who are doomed to be the greatest sufferers in the cotton crisis, unless in the movement being made to help out the cotton producers the weaker one is looked out for and the type "Uncle Eph" and his sons represent find some one or more friends to extend the "buy-a-bale" movement to them.

There are many ways to do it, and I can't but believe that the "white man" in the south, as he has always proved to be the worthy negro's best friend, is going to look out for him now.

The complexity of the cotton situation is becoming easier of understanding. Movements to help are being better defined. The government, the financial agencies and the public-spirited citizens have come together in working for a general adjustment of the emergency, but I can't see clearly yet just what is being done to help "Uncle Eph" and I do not see that the big cotton problem of southwest Georgia is very much to the front.

Percentage of Negro Labor.

Seventy-five per cent of the cotton-growing laborers in that section are negroes. A large majority of these are tenants on the large plantations. To alleviate their condition should appeal to the generous people of all sections who have become a part of the cotton campaign.

The average negro tenant in southwest Georgia rents forty acres from the landlord under a contract to pay two bales of cotton, or, if rent is payable in money, from $75 to $100 a year. Under Georgia law, the landlord has a first lien upon the crops of the tenants until his rent is paid.

At the beginning of each year the average negro tenant not only has no money, but in addition to his outstanding obligation for rent for the current year, he probably owes the merchant who supplies him with the necessities of life: and with a comparatively

small amount of fertilizer that he is going to use, a balance on the previous year of an amount ranging from $25 to $75, the merchant having agreed to carry this amount over to the next "year run."

The Middleman.

This merchant takes a mortgage on the tenant's mule, wagon, plow and crops to secure the amount already due and the amount to become due by way of advances during the crop year. When the cotton is sold, ordinarily the rent is paid, and in fairly good years with fairly good prices the tenant is able to pay all or most of his indebtedness to the supply man who has provided him with his fertilizers, clothing for himself and his family and to have some reasonable amount for Christmas expenditures. This is not only the average condition of the individual negro tenant in the territory named, but the exceptions are so few that it may be said to be practically the universal rule under normal conditions. While the cotton crop of 1913 was large and brought ver good prices, the cotton crop in Georgia wa not up to standard, and particularly in south west Georgia, and as a consequence thi class of negro tenants started out at th beginning of the year with more than th average debt carried over from last year They have grown perhaps a better crop tha has been made for several years, and are just finishing the picking, ginning, baling and delivery of their cotton to local warehouses. In most instances they have delivered to warehouses an amount of cotton equivalent to the rent due for the account of the landlord and the balance is deposited in warehouses to the credit of their supply men.

They Have No Market.

They have absolutely no market for their cotton and as a consequence the supply men, after a reasonable length of time—thirty or forty days—will sell their cotton at whatever price it will bring, credit their accounts, foreclose the mortgages on their mules, wagons, live stock, corn, fodder and everything else they have, expose these things to public outcry and credit their debts with the proceeds of the sale. Then, what is going to happen to these tenants? Confronted, as this section is, with the deplorable financial stringency on account of the fact that the cotton crop cannot be sold, the demand for labor another year is going to be comparatively small and these people, many of whom have lived on their present places from twenty-five to fifty years, will be penniless, as they are today, unable to rent because they have no stock or stock feed, and many of them unable to get employment at wages because of the lack of demand for labor.

One Plantation.

"Uncle Eph's" landlord has some sixty or seventy renters, all negroes, most of whom have lived on the places for more than half of a century. Taken in connection with their families, there are probably three hundred to three hundred and fifty negroes on this place. I apprehend that in all probability not a single one of these tenants will be able to rent next year, and that the supply man will in all probability foreclose their mortgages and sell all they have. The question may arise, why doesn't the landowner pay the supply man? The answer is that it would take $25,000 in money to do it, and probably as much again to furnish them another year with the necessities of life and making another crop, and the landowner simply cannot afford to do it.

Those who are earnestly desirous of helping this situation might well turn their attention to specific conditions of this kind, rather than to permit their purchases to be distributed from large centers where parties handling such purchases may or may not know where the greatest distress may be found.

Please, somebody, do something at once for "Uncle Eph" and those of his dependent kind, now involved in the cotton problem in southwest Georgia.

100 Hungarian Families To Colonize At Montgomery

Advertiser 11-29-14

1,000 Acres Of Land Wanted For Their Purchase At Once

ALL HAVE SOME MONEY

One hundred or more Hungarian families, already Americanized and with sufficient capital to insure their success, will be colonized near Montgomery as soo nas land can be secured for their use, according to an announcement made Saturday by Lajos Steiner, of Brooklyn, an immigration expert, who for the last three weeks has been working in co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce in an effort to secure the colony near Montgomery. The colonists are assured and the colony itself, depends only on securing at a reasonable price 4,000 acres of good agricultural land within twenty miles of Montgomery.

The Hungarian families which will come to Montgomery have been residents of America for at least six years, and each family will have no less than $2,000, which is considered more than sufficient to care for the initial payments on the land and to purchase their necessities during the first year.

Montgomerians Interested.

Through the Chamber of Commerce numbers of Montgomery men have been interested in the plans to bring to the county agricultural immigrants of the desired type and arrangements will probably be completed within a few days to establish and maintain a colonization bureau. It is believed that after the first colony has been established here a tide of immigration will be turned toward Middle Alabama. The efforts of the colonization bureau will be to bring only resident immigrants who are skilled in farming and who possess sufficient capital to establish themselves until the first crop is made.

"Employed in our American industries," said Mr. Steiner Saturday, "are millions and millions of immigrant peasants. These have been tillers of soil in Europe, and their hearts lead them back toward farm life. They save a part of their wages for the purpose of investing in a farm. These savings are sent back to the country of their birth, and the thriftiest of our immigrants leave us for a few acres of land in their own country. The savings sent away from America amounts, in normal times, to about three hundred million dollars a year. These thrifty peasants who leave us are of good moral character diligent and law abiding. They can not return to Europe at the present time, and proper work will bring them into farm colonies in the South. That is the work we have begun here."

Securing of Land.

The views of Bruce Kennedy, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce given in a conversation Saturday afternoon, coincided with those of the immigration expert, and assured the co-operation of the Chamber of Commerce in establishing the colony here.

In discussing the problem of securing land Mr. Kennedy stated that the principal obstacle in the way of the colony was the disinclination of landowners to sell.

"Criticism," he said, "has been aimed at our organization as regards our advice against organized efforts to locate poverty stricken Belgian refugees on Alabama land. The lack of co-operation in the present instance, it seems, confirms our judgment, for if we cannot buy lands for these Hungarians, who have money to pay for everything they need, it is certain that our landholders would not give lands to destitute Belgians, and finance them until the first year's crops are made."

Mr. Steiner, who has inspected several large tracts of lands near here stated Saturday that he was well pleased with the conditions, and thinks them well adapted to the intensive farming and co-operative methods of the Hungarian peasant. It is pointed out by the immigration man that such methods on these lands can not fail to bring good results, and benefit to the section.

Will Thornton, Dallas County Negro, Has Obtained Rather Remarkable Results From His Little Twenty Acre Farm

Advertiser 12-14-14

As evidence of the fact that diversified farming is not beyond the attainment of negro planters, and that Southern farmers, who have it in mind to discard their colored labor in view of changing conditions, are about to discommode themselves unnecessarily, J. T. Watts, State Farm Demonstration Agent, cites the case of Will Thornton, a Dallas County negro. The deductions made by Mr. Watts are based on a report filed with him by John Blake, county demonstrator of Dallas, who sums up the results of an experiment with twenty acres of land in that county. The report shows that Thornton, following the instructions of the demonstrator, obtained rather remarkable results from his little diversified farm, and gave proof of the fact that the negro need not be solely a cultivator of cotton.

Incidentally, there are six twenty-acre demonstration farms under supervision in Dallas County The Selma Chamber of Commerce has taken an active interest in the development of diversified farming, and has offered a fund of $1,200 to be used in fertilizing the six farms, conditional on the willingness of the owners to adhere strictly to the counsel of the demonstrator These farms are so located that they are under the constant inspection of the Dallas County citizenry, public highways passing through or close by every one of them. Interest in diversity of crops has been greatly stimulated, according to State and county demonstrators.

Negro is Operator

Only one of the farms, that of Will Thornton, is operated by a negro. County Demonstrator Blake reports on this farm in part as follows:

"It has been claimed by many of the land owners and merchants of this section that the negro is not capable of doing diversified farming; that he is especially suited for cotton growing and can grow nothing else profitably on our soils.

"In an effort to prove that this is a mistaken idea and that the negro can grow his own feed stuff and raise cotton under boll weevil conditions, I selected twenty acres of land and a negro who would work just as I directed The Selma Chamber of Commerce aided me very materially in this work. As a stimulus to the work and the negro, they agreed to furnish all fertilizers free The field selected was fenced. The soil was poor and of a sandy nature with a yellow clay subsoil; it had previously been in cotton for years, producing about a third of a bale per acre Part of the field had grown up in sap pine and broom sedge.

"My plan was to plant five acres in oats to be followed by peas, five acres to be planted in corn and ten in cotton. After the land had been broken a cover crop of oats was planted. This was done in October. The five acres that was planted in oats had a dressing of seven loads of stable manure; the land was then broken as deeply as possible with a two-horse plow. After it had received a good rain and settled the oats were sown broadcast, at the rate of two bushels per acre, and cut in with a disc harrow. A good stand was obtained and the oats received a dressing of 100 pounds of nitrate of soda per acre on March 20. They were cut the first week in June and after they had remained in shock to thoroughly dry were weighed. From the five acres the negro gathered 16,800 pounds of oats in the straw or 3,360 pounds per acre. It was impossible to get the oats threshed, but I am confident that the yield was fully sixty bushels per acre. Immediately after the oats were harvested, 200 pounds of 16 per cent. acid phosphate and 100 pounds of kainit was sown on the stubble and the land broken. Cow peas were sown broadcast at the rate of six pecks per acre and cut in with a disc harrow. In September he harvested 2,460 pounds of peavine and crab grass hay per acre. In addition to this he gathered 306 pounds of peas in the hull, or about four bushels per acres. The land is now sown in crimson clover.

Drainage Necessary.

"The five acres selected for corn, to get best results had to be drained. This was done by means of an open ditch. This piece of land on account of previous poor drainage, had been laying out and was the best land of the twenty acres. The cover crop of oats was turned under the latter part of March and the first of April. The rows were laid off four feet apart and corn planted about April 15. Moseby seed corn was used. The following home mixture was put in the bed at planting time: 300 pounds of 16 per cent. acid phosphate, 100 pounds of 7 1-2 per cent. cotton seed meal, 100 pounds kainit. When corn was a little over waist high, it was dressed with 100 pounds of nitrate of soda per acre. Corn was worked with sweep twice and with a cultivator three times. In the latter part of October the negro gathered 61.2 bushels of corn per acre. In addition to this, he saved 2,800 pounds of corn tops for fodder from the five acres

"The cover crop of oats on the cotton land was turned over on April 1st, 4th and 5th. The land was bedded in three and one-half foot rows. The following home mixture was thoroughly mixed in the bed before planting: 240 pounds 16 per cent. acid phosphat, 260 pounds 7 1-2 per cent. cotton seed meal and 100 pounds of kainit. Cotton was planted and thinned to sixteen inches in the drill. The cotton received two cultivations with a sweep and four with a cultivator. The negro gathered 1,189 pounds of seed cotton per acer, or slightly over three-quarters of a bale. The weevils which came in August prevented him from making a bale per acre. This land is now in oats.

"We spent $130.88 for fertilizer. I visited the negro fifteen times. He followed instructions closely. As a result he made on the twenty acres 16,800 pounds oats in straw, 12,320 pounds peavine hay, twenty bushels peas, 306 bushels corn and 11,890 pounds seed cotton."

Agriculture—1914

Improvement of

Popular Keynote All Over the South Struck by Holleman Communication

H. G. Hastings, of Atlanta, and Many Others, Indorse Position Taken.

The Constitution presents below three striking communications, called forth by the publication last Sunday of the article by J. T. Holleman, in which he severely arraigned the present system of financing the crops of the south.

Mr. Holleman's contribution seems to have struck a popular chord in every section of the south, and The Constitution has been in receipt of so many communications indorsing the position taken by Mr. Holleman that it was utterly impossible to give them publication.

The following communications, coming from men whose opinion on this subject is of undoubted value, owing to their deep study of the situation, are presented as valuable contributions to the discussion brought about by the extremity to which the southern farmer has been brought by the European war.

The communication of H. G. Hastings, president of the seed house of H. G. Hastings & Co., is of an unusually striking nature in its comprehensive indorsement of Mr. Holleman's statement. Coming from a man whose business interests cover the whole south and which keep him in constant and intimate touch with farming conditions, it will be read with wide interest.

The comments from D. L. Beatie, president of the Farmers' Land, Loan and Title company, of Albany, is unusually significant in that it comes from a representative of the financial forces of the state. President David C. Barrow, of the Barrow Loan and Abstract company, of Pelham, Ga., joins Mr. Beatie in indorsing Mr. Holleman's position that the south will never come into its own agriculturally until the present system is changed.

Mr. Hastings' Communication.

Editor Constitution: Never have I seen such a full, clean-cut statement and condemnation of Georgia's present suicidal agricultural and business policy as was made by Mr. J. T. Holleman in last Sunday's Constitution.

In your editorial comment, after summing up the salient points you say: "This is a big indictment." It certainly is and when the evidence is all before the jury of public opinion you may be sure that a verdict of "guilty" will be found against landlord, merchant and banker who not only make this deplorable condition possible, but practically have made any change from it impossible up to this time.

There is a "cotton oligarchy," possibly what may be termed an unconscious or unpremeditated one, but a "cotton oligarchy" that has absolutely in its grip 70 per cent of our farm population, 15 to 20 per cent more partially in its grip and leaving only 10 to 15 per cent free from its crushing demands.

We have lauded the free and independent Georgia farmer as the man favored above all others in our state because of his independence. What absolute rot!

Mortgaged From Cradle to Grave.

The candidates seeking votes laud his independence to the skies, but it isn't the kind of independence that gets him past the supply merchant without his signing a crop mortgage before he can get $5 worth of supplies. Practically speaking the tenant farmer is mortgaged from the cradle to the grave.

I believe that it was General Booth, of Salvation Army fame, who created a furore some years ago by alluding to the poorest of the population of London as the "submerged tenth." That "submerged tenth" of London were considered the hopeless ones, unable to rise above their environment and its influences.

What about Georgia's "submerged" agricultural seven-tenths? We have them and they are as helpless, so far as changing their condition of submersion and servitude to landlord and supply merchant, as is the dweller of the London slums to rise above his environment.

Human slavery in the south was abolished as the result of the civil war and the slavery of ante-bellum days was confined to the slavery of the black race.

Have we not unconsicously substituted for the negro slavery of the ant -bellum days what is essentially a slavery of both white and black tenant farmers to the supply merchant, landlord, etc.?

Years ago some newspaper writer in Kansas (in the days when Kansas was essentially a one-crop state) acquired fame by springing the question, "What's the matter with Kansas?" That question led to close self analysis by Kansans. They saw the error of their way, got onto a diversified basis and today, in spite of blizzards in winter and scorching winds and drouth in summer, Kansas is one of the most prosperous of our agricultural states.

"What's the Matter With Georgia?"

In all seriousness, it's time for some of the leading papers of Georgia to ask, "What's the Matter With Georgia?" for sure as the sun rises each morning there is something seriously the matter with Georgia that needs to be cured, and what is true of Georgia is in greater or less degree true of all the southeast.

For fifteen years Georgia has had, on an average, good cotton crops. For fifteen years the average price of cotton has been above that of other simllar periods and yet here, just as we are about to place on the market the crop of the sixteenth year, this war comes along, stops temporarily the usual system of marketing and a part of the consumption, and we have for the past six or seven weeks been standing with our arms outstretched to the federal government saying: "Save us, or we perish."

What think you of a system of agriculture and a system of business based on that agriculture that, at the disturbance we now have, has confessed that it has not accumulated enough reserve in the last fifteen years to see it through one bad year without calling on outside help? This is a fact well worth pondering.

Many of our papers are going to insist that this situation ought not to be talked about. They want us to hide our heads, ostrich like, in the sand, now, just as we have been doing in the past. Many of our prominent men are going to take the same position, but I believe we can commit no greater folly than to shut our eyes to plain facts. The time has come when we must face these facts squarely.

Georgia Sick Agriculturally.

The first step toward curing any disease is to first recognize the existence of the disease, then study the symptoms and seek the remedy.

Georgia, agriculturally, is sick, and has been for years. I should term it a case of "cotton indigestion," and at present the patient has an exceedingly acute attack. This has come from an almost lifetime diet of cotton. The "forced feeding" of the "suffragettes" on "hunger strikes" in British prisons the last two or three years isn't a circumstance to the manner in which cotton has been forced down the throat of both the tenant farmer and the farmer who has to have credit to make his crops.

Ten to fifteen per cent of our farmers make enough supplies to see them through. These are independent of the supply merchant and the present cotton situation means to them nothing more than temporary inconvenience.

Another fifteen per cent have probably enough to see them through the next six or seven months and these are partly independent. This leaves us with the 70 per cent of tenants, our "submerged" seven-tenths, all of whom, practically speaking, are absolutely dependent directly or indirectly on landlord, supply merchant and banker.

Farmer Forced to Grow Cotton.

THIS 70 PER CENT IS ABSOLUTELY FORCED TO MAKE COTTON AND NOTHING BUT COTTON BY LANDLORD, MERCHANT AND BANKER AND THEY ARE FORCED TO MAKE COTTON ON A BASIS OF EXORBITANT CREDIT PRICES FOR SUPPLIES THAT LEAVES THEM NO POSSIBLE CHANCE TO HAVE ANY MATERIAL PROFIT, EXCEPT IN SEASONS OF LARGE CROPS SOLD AT HIGH PRICES, AND IT IS USUALLY THE CASE THAT THERE ARE DEBTS HANGING OVER HIM FROM YEARS OF SHORT CROPS OR LOW PRICES TO ABSORB IT.

On the part of landlord, supply merchant and country banker, it's a gamble. Each year they bet the use of a certain number of acres or a certain amount of supplies (valued on an exorbitant credit basis), or a certain amount of money at a high interest rate basis that between Providence furnishing the seasons, the tenant and his family the labor and the cotton market a price that the tenant will be able "to pay out" and when he does "pay out" or nearly so the winnings are heavy, fully heavy enough to keep the game going.

Mr. Tenant goes to the land owner or his agent, if he is an absentee landowner, and rents a piece of land. The rent is so many bales of cotton. The land arranged for, he goes to the supply merchant to make arrangements for fertilizer, grain and food. He is at the start, between landlord and merchant, forced to agree to plant up to his limit of ability to tend the entire acreage in cotton and before he gets any supplies he has to mortgage his crop—even before the ground is prepared for planting.

It's a waste of time to talk to a tenant about growing his food and grain, no matter how good his intentions may be in that direction. He cannot, for his masters, the landlord and supply merchant, won't let him.

If the tenant were allowed to make his corn and oats and meat the merchant would lose control over him. He is useful to the supply merchant and landlord just so long as he is helpless and it is not to their interest to have him free.

Laws Do Not Protect Farmers.

Every law on the statute books of Georgia on this subject is intentionally framed up to protect landlord, merchant and banker in these kinds of transactions. They can and do absolutely dictate to this "submerged" seven-tenths exactly what and how much he shall plant, and the white man is exactly on the same basis of essential bondage to them as is the black.

While the larger part of this "submerged" seven-tenths is negro it does not alter the fundamental fact that it is an unsafe and wrong condition, bad economically, bad morally and the greatest of hindrances to real prosperity, not only on the farm, but in town and city.

With all these conditions surrounding him the tenant has no show to reach a stage of economic independence. He is a being without hope, beyond the hope of getting some landlord or supply merchant to credit him for the next year.

I have been in several of the [illegible] on conferences and conventions during the past month. With few exceptions they have been made up of landlords, merchants and bankers, the men who have staked the tenants the past season. They bet wrong this year and are now insisting that Washington come to the aid of the "farmer." The real farmer, with rare exceptions, owns the cotton he has made in 1914, and is in position to hold. The cotton that landlord, merchant and banker wants Washington to finance is the tenants' cotton, that is depended on to "pay out" the money going, not to the tenant farmers' pocket, but to the debts he has been forced to make. The tenant already has got about all that was coming to him out of that cotton before a bale of it was ready for the gin.

Reports made to the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce recently from over 300 Georgia towns show that average advances of $44.65 had been made per bale against this crop and that's exactly where the shoe pinches. It's the landlord, merchant and banker that has been financing this dangerous, all-cotton gamble that is calling in the name of the farmer for help. It's this tenant farmers' cotton that is "distressed cotton" in that same "distressed cotton" that bears down the market every fall, cotton made, not by the free will of the farmer, but by the insistence, yes, the demand of landlord, merchant and banker.

Not the Negroes' Fault.

The usual course is to place the blame for our present system on the negro, saying that he can't raise food crops. This also is rot. The white man won't let him, on rented land, and yet, in thousands of instances in Georgia, the negro land owner does raise his food supplies and is far better off than the average white tenant.

A friend of mine in a middle Georgia county met a negro the other day that used to work for him some twenty years ago. Incidentally the results of the present cotton situation came into the conversation and the negro acknowledged that he was "bad off" because he couldn't sell his cotton for enough to pay his debts for food to the supply merchant and said: "Mr. _____, dese yere is white folks' doins. Dey won't 'low us niggers to grow nothin' to eat on dese rented farms an' we jes' can't pay out."

In slavery times there was no talk about the negroes not having the ability to grow food crops. Unless I am misinformed, Georgia didn't import a ton of the staple food and grain crops. In those days Georgia lived within her borders. Negroes were all-around farmers, not exclusive cotton growers, and they can be again if the white man will do his duty to the land he owns and to the negroes.

Landlords Are Shirking.

Ownership of large areas of farm land, aided and abetted by the damnable combination of tenant and credit systems, has led the white man to shirk his responsibility and seek his ease in town or city. These white men take little or no heed for tomorrow so long as an income is forthcoming for the present.

They forget the constant deterioration of their lands, the washing away every year by winter rains from bare cotton field acres of more actual plant food than is put back every year in fertilizers; they forget the constantly growing gullies that gash the hillsides rendering them less productive and eventually worthless except for crops of broomsedge and "old field pine"—fields so poor that even the "sorriest" tenant won't take a chance on them.

The town and city farm land owners

think they are living on income. They are not. They are living on the principal. They are robbing posterity of its just dues in the way of fertile lands.

Farm land ownership carries a moral responsibility with it and nine out of ten of farm land owners are shirking this moral responsibility, hence our present tenant system, with all its attendant evil. Apparently, their only idea is that so many bales of cotton shall come to them each year that they may sell it and take their ease.

Mr. Holleman pleads for the resurrection of the old-time southern home. Before that comes must, of necessity, come the resurrection of the class of men who made these old-time southern homes and farms. It's the human element that is lacking on those lands today. The directing head, to insure proper superintendence, is not there. He is in town or city; many of them "saving the country" in legislative halls and on the benches of our courts, while the irresponsible tenant is left to skin the land of its value.

Don't Blame the Tenant.

We can't blame the tenant, and should not. It's his right to skin those acres of everything he can and put nothing back, and he would be a fool if he did otherwise. The tenant is wiser in his generation than the owner. The blame lies with the owner, and if he is so unfit for farm land ownership as he has shown himself to be, let him sell out.

So far, we have shown the helplessness of the tenant and blamed landlord, supply merchant and country banker. All of this has a direct bearing on the all-important question o the cutting down of acreage in 1915 The control of the whole matter goe back further than the country suppl merchant and country banker.

The ultimate control rests in th hands of the city banker, the wholesale merchant, the jobber, the manufacturer. Without their help throug the extension of credit to countr banker and supply merchant this enormous system of tenant farming o credit basis would fall to the groun for the resources of the country town are limited. **They cannot of their ow resources finance these enormous operations.**

Where Real Responsibility Lies.

The ultimate responsibility for th lies in New York, in Atlanta, in Macon in Augusta, etc. In the last analysis here is where the real responsibilit of the maintenance of this unsafe, un economic system of slavery to cotto lies. Many of my best personal friend in business circles in Atlanta are jus as guilty of a share in this system a is the supply merchant in the countr town.

Without the credit co-operation these business forces of the city th average supply merchant is almost helpless in his field of operations as the tenant to the acres he cultivate These city business forces have the responsibility to shoulder in this ma ter, and they above all others can d termine what the 1915 cotton acrea shall be, for the credit the city e tends is the foundation of this who system. Without it the present sy tem cannot continue to exist.

Several years ago in a public address I made the statement that no state or section could be permanently prosperous that is dependent on another section for its food supplies, and the history of nations as far back as history goes bears out the truth of this statement.

In the past we have been trading off the cotton crop for something to eat, paying the man who grows it and every man who handles it a profit and every railroad over which those food and grain products pass a transportation charge. This burden of profits and transportation is too heavy and we can't pay them and have anything left.

We have made a material advance in food production in recent years, but it has been done by the 30 per cent. There has been more food and grain made in Georgia this year than at any time in recent years, but the "submerged" seven-tenths have had little or no part in it and until the business interests of Atlanta and other cities demand that these "seven-tenths" have a chance to produce food as well as cotton, just so long will our business fabric rest on its present rotten foundation.

Georgia is a magnificent state. It is full of natural resources and opportunities and is favored by nature far beyond her sister states. Why, with this wealth of resources, with the ability to grow practically all crops that the north does, with cotton thrown in for good measure, does Georgia remain a comparatively poor state? There is an answer to this question. We need [illegible] kind of self-analysis that Kansas did in years gone by, followed by action. When that is done, and not before, will Georgia take her rightful place as the wealthiest and most prosperous agricultural state in the union, barring none.

H. G. HASTINGS.
Atlanta, Ga., October 3, 1914.

Mr. Beatie's Communication.

Editor Constitution: I desire to express my appreciation of the article appearing in last Sunday's issue of your paper, written by Mr. J. T. Holleman. This article has struck the keynote to the situation in Georgia.

Mr. Holleman is right, and while some of the facts stated are not pleasant it is folly to shut our eyes to a condition that is so grave, and, if unchanged, will bankrupt the state.

This article ought to be in the hands not only of the leading men and officials but of every farmer in the state. My business carries me among all classes of farmers in this section and I know many of them are realizing that the present system of farming is wrong.

Articles, such as written by Mr. Holleman, if placed before them at this time would do a great deal toward directing their thoughts along proper channels, where the good will be permanent.

If it is possible, I believe the state agricultural department should issue this article in pamphlet form and send it broadcast over the state. Yours very truly, D. L. BEATIE,
President Farmers' Land, Loan and Title Company.
Albany, Ga.

Mr. Barrow's Card.

Editor Constitution: I have read with unusual interest the article by Mr J. T. Holleman in your September 2 edition, as to there being an "oligarch in the south."

It is the most wonderful article have read in many a day and it hi the nail squarely on the head, and wi siege-hammer blows.

He may have the conditions slightly overdrawn as to a few localities, but in the main these conditions prevail generally all over the state.

There is but one way to bring about a change of these conditions, and stop this "all-cotton method of farming," and that is by taxation or "by legal process" to control the amount of cotton raised. It has been demonstrated time and again that the acreage planted to cotton cannot be controlled by the farmers themselves, whether through conventions, associations or by signed pledges and contracts.

A tax on every acre planted to cotton in the southern states of 25 cents per acre for each plow run on a farm up to 8 acres to the plow, and of $10 per acre on every acre above said eight acres planted in cotton to the plow, properly enforced, will in every respect relieve the deplorable situation which Mr. Holleman describes. It will do more than that, for it will immediately make the present crop of cotton have a market value of something like 10 cents per pound, for there will then be a certainty that there will not be an overproduction of cotton next year, and it would likewise keep the size of the cotton crop for all time in the future regulated according to supply and demand, for unless cotton should reach a price of some 16 to 18 or possibly 20 cents per pound, no farmer would be able to pay the tax of $10 per acre on an excess acreage of more than eight acres to the plow.

By only the small tax of 25 cents per acre on the first eight acres there would be no burden on the farmer who farmed as he should with a modest amount in cotton and the balance in food crops, stock raising, etc. In some sections twenty-four acres constitute what might be termed a "plow," while in others it runs as high as forty acres to the plow, according to the character of the soil and other conditions, and by holding each farmer down to eight acres or not exceeding one-fourth of his area in cultivation to the plow in cotton the desired results will be obtained.

Would Result in Diversification.

This would bring about diversification on the farm, for with only an average of one-fourth of the land in the cotton section farmed to cotton, which would be the case unless its price rose to abnormal, there would would be ample food crops, hay, pork, beef, etc., raised to supply all needs within the borders of each cotton growing state.

As it is now, nearly all of the "all-cotton farmers" plant from twenty-five to thirty acres of cotton to the plow, and plant only from two to ten acres of other crops, and do not properly cultivate these other crops on account of the enormous amount of work required on the cotton at certain seasons, and devote practically no time to live stock.

In fact, they figure on buying nearly everything they use on their farms and making enough cotton to pay for it and have profits besides. They can do this very easily when cotton brings from 12 to 15 cents per pound, but when it brings only 7 to 8 cents and then can't be sold at all, they are up against it good and proper.

A Sure Remedy.

There is no necessity for our farmers to buy all of their meat, live stock, hay, grain, etc., from supply merchants, who in turn buy it from wholesale dealers, who in turn buy it from jobbers in other sections, who in turn buy it from the farmers of other sections, paying a profit on it to each man through whose hands it passes, besides freight charges to the railroads, but most of them have been doing it, are doing it and will continue to do it, because under this system of "oligarchy" which Mr. Holleman so forcibly describes, until they are forced to stop it by a tax on the acreage planted to cotton like I have described and this tax should be levied against the landowner.

A tax like this could be levied by either the feedral government or by the several cotton states, preferably by the former, as it would be the same everywhere and uniformly enforced, and if by the states, then it should be the same law in each and enforced as nearly alike as possible.

The proceeds of the tax after cost of administration and collection could be utilized in building better roads and maintaining better schools.

With such a law we would have a happy and contented farm life, with comfortable and imposing dwellings, more intelligent methods where the neighing of mares and colts would mingle with the low bellow of pure-bred cattle and the contented grunt of fat pigs and the cackle of barnyard fowls and bleat of fleecy lambs—in short, a land flowing in milk and honey, wherein it is good to live as well as a fitting place in which to be buried.

DAVID C. BARROW,
President Barrow Loan and Abstract Company.
Pelham, Ga.

His eyes should be kept on the opportunities of the farm

Agriculture — 1914

Improvement of

South Is Ideal Section For Live Stock Industry

advertisement 9-13-14

United States Government Points Out That Opportunity of South Lies in Her Cheap Lands, Fine Grazing and Moderate Climate.

Notwithstanding the uncertainties engendered by the European war and the untoward condition of affairs in the United States, especially in the South, brought about as a result, the Alabama State Exposition Association is pressing every energy to make the big show of next month, from October 12 to 17, inclusive, the biggest, best and greatest exposition ever held in the State. Assurances given the management on all sides indicate that their hopes will be realized in the fullest measure.

President Salter, early in the development of the plans for the big show, insisted that live stock should play one of the most important parts in the general en semble, and the wisdom of his position is being verified by the interest displayed by the United States government in the same industry.. Mr. Salter has maintained that the South, especially Alabama, is an ideal section for the profitable raising of live stock for market, and the government has reached the same general conclusion after close investigation and numerous experiments.

A recent news dispatch sent out of Washington with the sanction of the governmental department, summarizes the live stock situation and possibilities in the South as follows:

Officials Interested.

"Officials of the Department of Agriculture are taking advantage of the war in Europe to emphasize the possibilities for the production of beef cattle in the Southern States.

"With a largely increased demand for beef for export, combined with the dwindling supply in other sections of the country, the cheap land fine grasses and moderate climate o the South offer many inducements t the live stock farmer.

"According to beef cattle experts o the Bureau of Animal Husbandry, o the total land area of the South 73. per cent is made up of grazing land, woods, waste or waste lands, and a very large portion of the latter would produce excellent pasture for cattle. The types of soil and nature of the land vary widely in each State, but in each one are found soils which produce abundant grazing.

"The stiffer soils usually produce better grazing and fatter cattle than the light or sandy soils. The lime lands, black prairie lands, and alluvial lands furnish the best pastures.

"A joint report made by W. F. Ward, senior animal husbandman in beef cattle investigations, and Dan T Gray, chief of the animal industry division of the North Carolina experiment station, has the following to say about the South as a beef producer

Can Raise Cattle Cheaply.

"'There is no section of the country which can produce cattle more cheaply than the South, for the lands are still cheap, the grazing is good, the pasture season is long, feed can be procured at a minimum cost and inexpensive shelter only is required for the animals during the winter months. The native cattle throughout this section are poor in quality and small in size, but they are also cheap in price. They are not worthless, however, and their cheapness is their redeeming feature, for they are good foundation stock from which may be produced an excellent herd of beef animals by judicious selection and by the continued use of pure bred beef bulls.

"'Cheap lands, combined with cheap cows for foundation stock, make it possible to start in the cattle business in the South with an outlay of far less capital than in most other sections of the country. The only shelters required are open sheds facing south, under which young cattle may take shelter from cold, rain or wind. Mature beef cattle usually need no other protection than that afforded by trees, hedges, underbrush, canebrakes and other natural shelters.

"'Corn grows well throughout the South and is the principal crop grown for grain for feeding purposes and is moregenerally used for silage than any other crop. Because of its adaptability to almost all sils, the wide variation of time during which it may be planted, and its luxuriant growth in Southern latitudes, it is considered the most important silage crop. Sweet sorghum can be planted later than corn and often makes a heavier yield. The cost of growing sorghum and corn is about the same. A combination of corn and sorghum makes a silage that is greatly relished by cattle.'

War on the Cattle Tick.

"For many years the Department of Agriculture has realized the importance of the South as a field for beef cattle. Investigations in breeding and feeding cattle in the South were begun in 1904. Two years later war was declared on the cattle tick, which was found to be a tremendous drawback to the livestock industry in that section. The battle line against this troublesome disease carrier was extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific in a zigzag line across the South and Southwest, the lines being tightened gradually in an effort to push the tick back into the Gulf of Mexico and across the Rio Grande. While 215,908 square miles of territory had been actually freed of cattle tick before the close of the last fiscal year, the war is being continued more systematically and effectively now than ever before.

"Any standard breed of beef cattle will do well in the South. Following its extensive tests and experiments, the Bureau of Animal Industry is in position to advise prospective cattle raisers on this point. Some breeds do better in given sections than others. Generally speaking, the shorthorn, Hereford, Aberdeen-Angus and Galloway, belonging to the beef type, were found to do well, while the Devon and Red Polled are considered the most important breeds belonging to the dual purpose type of cattle, at least for the South.

"While slavery existed in the South cattle, hogs and sheep were to found on every plantation, and many of them were very good animals, some herds of which con ed a large infusion of shorthorn b At that time the South produce the beef, pork and mutton requir meet its demands. At the close o Civil War few cattle were left, these were bred among thems without the addition of any new except an occasional cross with Jersey, and the result was the pr small and

Georgia Sends Millions West Which Could Be Easily Saved By Producing Her Own Hay

Constitution

10/19/14

By ALBERT M. SMITH.

(Secretary-Manager Georgia Chamber of Commerce.)

Georgia farmers fight grass 240 days in the year and Georgians buy baled grass from the west 365 days in the year. Georgia has an average of 240 growing days in which to produce her own hay, while the west has an average of but 165 growing days; yet the people of Georgia go right on sending west an average of at least $20,000,000 per year for hay that might be raised in Georgia to the benefit of our entire population.

The average number of days between the last frost of spring and the first frost of autumn varies from 200 days for the mountains of extreme northeast Georgia to 280 days on the border line of Florida. It is a visualization of the nine climate zones with which this state is blessed, which should enable it to raise a greater variety of products than any state in America, and should make it unnecessary for Georgia to send money away for any products of the soil or manufactures of a temperate clime.

Unnecessary Dependence.

Yet we find that about the only thing for which Georgia does not send away vast sums of money is raw cotton. Hay is only an example of Georgia's unnecessary dependence on other sections for food and clothing. We buy apples from New York or Washington, when apples fully as good are raised and rot in Georgia; we buy canned sweet potatoes from New Jersey, though better quality is grow Georgia, but not enough are canne to supply the demand; we buy fres fruits from California that can b grown as well in Georgia, and send

18, Georgia Products day will be observed for the second time. Surely, in these times of stress, our people should turn their attention to the subjects of "Buying at Home" and "Make Georgia Self-Sustaining," for never before has the outflow of money to other states been of such great injury to Georgia.

WAR HAS FREED SOUTH, SAYS RICHARD EDMONDS; COTTON IS DETHRONE

10/30/14

Constitution

Editor Constitution: Let me warmly congratulate The Constitution upon its healthy and helpful optimism.

From one end of the south to the other there should go up a song of gladness.

Away with the pessimist; away with every expression of helplessness.

Away with the spirit that placards the country with appeals to "help the south."

Is the south a beggar? Are its people so weak-kneed that they cannot meet a few months of adversity without standing hat in hand begging alms of the nation?

Have we been breeding a race of men with cotton strings as backbones?

How else can we explain the sudden hysteria which swept over our country and the fear that took possession of us? The south produces annually over $3,000,000,000 of agriculture and more than $3,500,000,000 of manufactures and mineral output, or upwards of $6,500,000,000 a year, and yet because we had a temporary halting in cotton and because we might possibly get a few hundred million less for cotton than last year, we forgot that the whole cotton crop, even when it was worth $1,000,000,000 a year, was less than one-sixth of our total products of farm, factory and mine. We forgot that even if we had lost an entire cotton crop the loss would have been less than 4 per cent of our total wealth. We forgot that the south's drink bill is annually equal to at least one-half of a $1,000,000,000 cotton crop; we forgot that if for one year the south refrained from all alcoholic drink it would save far more than the total decline in the value of this year's cotton crop, as compared with last year; we forgot that our own interests were suffering far more than our cotton, that the loss in the value of the railroad and industrial properties of the south as measured by the value of securities was greater than the possible loss on cotton; we forgot that lumber operators and naval stores operators had all faced a depression as severe as that in cotton.

Cotton Bolls for Brains.

But because we have made cotton our fetich, because we have worshipped cotton, have thought in terms of cotton, have banked our banking and our trade, and almost our religion on cotton, we found that too many of us at the critical moment had only cotton strings for backbones, cotton bolls for brains and cotton emotion for religion.

We boast of the religious life of the south and of our faith in Almighty God, but the very moment that adversity comes we lose faith in God as in ourselves. We lose self-control and self-reliance; we see only the blackness of the passing cloud and forget to turn the cloud inside out to see the silver lining.

that state thousands of dollars for the same products in cans after letting our own surplus fruits rot on the ground.

We buy black-eye peas from California at $3 to $4 a bushel, when we can raise them in Georgia at $1, or less; and for years we bought from Baltimore oysters that were canned on the Georgia coast and shipped to Baltimore packers to be labeled "Chesapeake Bay" or "Lynn Haven Bay" oysters and shipped back to us, and every time they tickled our palates we congratulated ourselves on our discriminating taste.

Our people buy hosiery from New England, New York, or Minnesota, while our own hosiery mills must sell the bulk of their product to New York or Chicago jobbers, who sell it back to us under their private brands. We buy shoes from Massachusetts, stoves from Michigan, and meats from Illinois and Kansas, while product fully as good, or better, is produced in our own state and lacks but the support of our people in their buying to grow to tremendous volume.

Education Necessary.

While the farmer does not always prepare his products properly for market, the fault lies not altogether with him, for our people of the towns still cling to the delusion that the foreign product must be better because it has traveled farther. The solution of these problems must be one of education of both farmer and urban dweller. The farmer must be helped to prepare his product to command the highest price, and the people of the towns and cities must be taught the value of keeping their money at home.

The Georgia Products day celebrations of 1913, which were held in seventy-eight towns and cities, did more to awaken Georgians to the necessity of patronizing home production than had anything else in the history of the state. On Wednesday, November

r there is, indeed, a silver, yea, a golden, ining, to it.

We know that we have the most richly endowed country on earth. We know that for variety and extent of agricultural and mineral capabilities no other land on earth matches this heaven-favored region; we know that other lands not one-half so well endowed have grown enormously rich and that if we are not wealthy beyond the dreams of avarice it is because we have not fully utilized our opportunities.

We have grown cotton and spent it all for corn and flour and other foodstuffs and for the very mules with which to make the cotton.

Enslaved Ourselves With Cotton.

We have enchained and enslaved ourselves with cotton instead of producing our own foodstuffs and raising our own live stock. With the finest advantages in America for raising foodstuffs, we buy our butter from Wisconsin, our flour from Milwaukee and our beef from Chicago and Kansas City. Our $1,000,000,000 cotton crop money is largely spent for these and similar things before the first bale has reached the market.

And now that this lesson of the curse of cotton when it becomes a slave driver, with the producers as the slaves, has come to the south with such force, let us all rejoice that the profit in the lesson will be worth far more than the cost. How trifling will the loss of a few hundred millions seem, when contrasted with the certainty that it will result in an annual saving to the south for all time to come of far more than that through forcing us to raise our own foodstuffs, to diversify our crops, to economize where we had been growing extravagant and wasteful, and to break the chain with which cotton as king had enslaved us.

The southern farmer now has a chance to be a freeman, the south has the chance to think in other terms than cotton, the chance to worship another god than cotton and so out of the present depression will come a blessing of unspeakable value to the whole south. Let us cease to look upon the present situation as an evil; let us rather see in it that Providence, which determined to save the south despite itself, has permitted us to see the evil of our fetich worship of cotton.

Cotton as an Autocrat.

As a subject held in control and made to do our bidding, cotton is one of heaven's richest blessings to any country; as an autocrat more dominating than any other ruler on earth, it is destructive of our highest prosperity; it deadens our initiative, it kills our self-reliance, it impoverishes our soil, it nolds our progress, material, educational, religious, in check. Let us therefore sing a song of gladness that the spell has been broken, that cotton can no longer rule and ruin us, that everywhere there shall soon be seen that diversified agriculture which spells progress in capital letters—progress in broader thinking, in broader planning and in broader utilization of our marvelous advantages.

And with this thought in mind, let us contrast our snow-white fields of cotton with the blood-red soil of Europe, our rivers as they go laughing to the sea, creating the power to light our cities and run our factories, with the blood-reddened rivers of Europe, choked with the bodies of tens of thousands who daily go down into the valley of death. Let us think of our manifold blessings and view them against the background of Europe's horrors, where 20,000,000 men are grappling in death or preparing for the struggle, while 300,000,000 people look on in awful agony at the world's most stupendous tragedy.

The pitying angels of heaven look down upon more agony, mental and physical, than they have ever seen since the world began, while the devil laughs with hellish glee such as the infernal regions never knew before. And here we, in a land of peace, a land where abundant crops have rewarded the work of the year, where we are free from all the horrors that burden Europe with earth's greatest sorrows, are acting and talking as though our petty troubles were worthy of serious consideration. "Surely the Almighty might say to us, and especially to the farmers of the south: "Unto whom much has been given, of him shall much be required. To the south much has been given.

How should we answer a question from the Almighty as to how we are meeting a situation so triflingly inconsequent as compared with the awful woe under which Europe staggers?

Let us quit bemoaning our troubles, let us heed the divine command: "Be strong, quit you like men."

RICHARD H. EDMONDS,
Editor Manufacturers' Record.

Some Interesting Sidelights On So-Called Cotton Oligarchy

Constitution 10-18-14

that there would be no overproduction next year.

I appeal to all of the leading papers in the cotton growing states, as well as to individuals in general to write and wire and bring such pressure to bear upon the governors of the cotton growing states immediately that they will be forced by public sentiment to call extra sessions of the state legislatures for the sole purpose of passing a law to thus tax the acreage planted to cotton, for that is our remedy and our only remedy. Politicians can deliver orations and give us blasts of hot air, and farmers and associations of business men can hold conventions and pass resolutions, and even get pledges and contracts and signed agreements to reduce the acreage planted to cotton, but they are not worth the paper they are written on; they will be violated like Germany violated the neutrality of little innocent Belgium. What we want is a law taxing the acreage planted to cotton above eight acres to the plow as before explained, for that, and only that, will remedy our evils.

DAVID C. BARROW.
Pelham, Ga., October 15.

THE LANDLORD AND TENANT SYSTEM AND ITS OPERATION

Editor Constitution: On reading the letter from Judge T. E. Patterson which you recently published, I was forcibly impressed with its importance, not so much because it deals with the all-cotton problem, but because it takes up the landlord and tenant system which is a gigantic evil fraught with more danger to coming generations than the all-cotton practice.

It is an evil which could and should be remedied, notwithstanding the fact that it would require serious thought and co-operation and, more than that, self-sacrifice on the part of many involved. There is no doubt that the system has the tendency of abridging the natural rights and otherwise depressing and humiliating a certain class of liberty-loving and intelligent people. It has the effect in many instances of depriving them of the hope of attaining to independence and happiness through the pursuit and practice of industry and economy. Unless there is something done for the amelioration of their condition, there will certainly come a time when they will revolt against it.

This statement of Mr. Patterson's is broad and far-reaching. It is especially interesting to me because it sets forth to some extent views which I have been trying in a feeble and humble way for twenty years to present to those with whom I have been associated.

Although I do not claim the ability to offer a solution that would be both practical and acceptable to all concerned, I am at least sure that the subject deserves serious consideration, and am glad The Constitution has paved the way for a discussion of it.

My days are more than half spent. I realize fully that to attempt to do anything along this line would possibly not gain me any friends. But I owe no ill will to any one, and my only hope is that a full and free discussion of this problem will result in ultimate benefit to mankind.

W. B. SIMPSON.
Locust Grove, Ga., October 15.

THE COTTON OLIGARCHY AS SUPPLY MERCHANT SEES IT

Editor Constitution: I have read with interest many articles published by you and written by men who claim to know something about conditions which have seriously affected the south on account of the war, and I note that several have placed much of the blame at the door of the supply merchant, banker and fertilizer concerns. I also note that these articles are written by men not connected with the supply business, the fertilizer business and the banking business. As I know nothing of the banking business and very little about the fertilizer end of it. I will not attempt to display my ignorance on something I know nothing about, as these friends before me have done. In behalf of the supply merchant I wish this article given publication.

To begin with, I will say that in no other business does a man take more chances than the supply merchant, and the chances are so great that records show us that from 90 to 95 per cent of those who engage in this line fail. If there is such a large profit made by the supply merchant, why do they fail? The supply merchant has to charge a good profit on his goods because he is taking this risk. He knows that each year he is going to have some bad accounts, no matter how favorable all conditions are, and again bad years are coming when he will not only lose all of his profits for that year, but he has to go back into profits made in time past to bridge over.

I dare say 99 per cent of supply merchants today would be only too glad to do a safe business on a 10 per cent profit rather than a time business on three times that per cent. It is very easy to book a profit in the time business, but when one begins to collect it he finds that much of his profit has gone to support some drones or some unlucky fellow who just couldn't make a crop.

I want the gentleman who wrote the article suggesting that the farmer not be allowed to mortgage his crop to know that the terms that the farmer gives supply merchant, the merchant is far from being secured.

In no article have I seen where the supply merchant feeds and clothes many a poor helpless family through the winter, even when he knows that he is not going to get a penny for it, and never have I seen where some farmer has taken the cotton that rightfully belongs to the supply merchant and sells it somewhere else and pockets the money; nor have I ever seen where the merchant has been very lenient with his customers and have not forced settlements when he saw they were doing their best, yet this is true. They do all these things and finally wind up bankrupt with these farmers' names and notes on their books, all of them practically worthless. So, after all, who has had the best end of the bargain and who is to blame? I say, "Give the devil his dues." When a man writes so much about the farmer being held up by the supply merchant I know that he knows absolutely nothing about what he is talking about. It is a general opinion among a great many farmers that every supply merchant is rich, that there is no limit to the accommodations he can extend, and even if he is not paid he has plenty of money to get along with.

This article is written by one who has been in the supply business long enough to know that "all is not gold that glitters."

C. F. REYNOLDS.
Mayfield, Ga., October 15.

Editor Constitution: I notice the card of T. E. Patterson suggesting the outlawing of crop liens, and the imposing of taxes on landlords as a means of removing the ill effects of the "cotton oligarchy," which we all admit is in our midst, and which has been so strongly indicted by Mr. Holleman and Mr. Hastings.

I believe the suggestions of Mr. Patterson, however well intended, if carried out, will react on the tenant and hurt him, and hence not improve the situation.

I stick to the assertions I made in my card to you which was published October 3, along with the card of Mr. Hastings, that the only way to relieve the entire situation is through a tax on the number of acres planted to cotton per plow.

Since writing that card I have received letters of approval of the plan from all over the southern states, and I have not yet found a real practical man who does not admit that this plan will absolutely solve the problem.

Before writing that card I had taken up the matter with members of the United States senate and house of representatives, and have found out that we can expect no help there, for the reason that many sections of the United States want to buy our cotton cheap and other sections want to sell us meats and food crops, and this plan would make the south independent and enable us to not only get a fair price for our cotton at all times, but would force us to make sufficient crops of food, grain and live stock.

Here is this plan in short: To impose a tax of 25 cents per acre on every acre planted to cotton in the southern states up to and including eight acres to the plow, the same not to exceed more than one-third of the well-cultivated land tilled by said plow, and to make this tax at the rate of $10 per acre on each acre above said eight acres or above one-third of the well-cultivated land tilled by each plow. Or we could relieve the man who confined his acreage planted to cotton to eight acres to the plow entirely by making the law to read this way: That there shall be placed on every acre planted to cotton in the southern states, beginning with the year 1915, a tax of $10 per acre, but that any land owner may be relieved of this tax where an affidavit is made by himself or tenant, and its truthfulness verified by the tax collector of the county, that not more than eight acres, nor more than one-third of the well-cultivated land tilled on said farm to the plow, is planted to cotton during said year.

It is of little consequence whether we have the tax made 25 cents per acre on the first eight acres or exempt it entirely; the thing that will do the necessary work will be the tax of $10 per acre on the excess acreage above eight acres or above one-third of the total well-cultivated area tilled by each plow. This law would force every farmer to plant at least two-thirds of his area that is well cultivated in crops other than cotton, and even where one plants more than twenty-four acres to the plow, he still could not plant more than eight acres of it to cotton.

This would control the amount of cotton raised each year and the supply of cotton raised would be regulated by the demand for it, for no farmer could afford to raise cotton and pay a tax of $10 per acre on excess acreage above one-third of his land in cultivation nor above eight acres to the plow, unless the price rose to an abnormal basis where it would pay to work a penalized acreage in addition to the free acreage.

This tax should be against the land owner, and collected through the regular channels of taxation or some special official, but preferably by the county tax collectors.

The amount that would be realized from this tax after the cost of administering same, could be paid to the school fund of the state or to the road funds of the sections from which collected, or partly distributed to both.

If a tax like this were made in each of the leading nine cotton growing states, all of our ills from overproduction of cotton and insufficient production of other necessary food crops, etc., would be remedied in less than twelve months, and the present chaotic financial conditions created by the low prices for cotton now prevailing, as well as the fact that there is practically no market for it, would be immediately relieved as to the remaining portion of the crop, for that now held in Georgia would at once be worth at least $40,000,000 more than it is today, for there would be some certainty

Agriculture — 1914 — Improvement of

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Demands Unions Be Exempted From Trust Law Application in Conformance With Platform.

Insists on Majority in Congress Maintaining Faith and Cites Vote to Show Temper of People Toward Republicans.

[FROM PUBLIC LEDGER BUREAU.]

WASHINGTON, May 16.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, today said that the contention of labor and the farm associations for exemption from the anti-trust bill was upheld by the 1912 platforms of both the Democratic and Progressive parties. He added that the representatives of these two organizations would hold the majority responsible for any failure to comply with the planks of the 1912 platform.

Mr. Gompers quoted the planks in these platforms in substantiation of his argument. The section of the Democratic plank dealing with the section objected to by the unions reads:

The expanding organization of industry makes it essential that there should be no abridgement of the right of the wage earner and producers to organize for the protection and the adjustment of labor conditions to the end that such labor organizations and their members shall not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade.

The declaration of the Progressive party of 1912 on the same subject is:

We believe that the issuance of injunctions in cases arising out of labor disputes should be prohibited when such injunctions would not apply when no labor dispute existed. We believe that a person cited for contempt in labor disputes, except when such contempt was committed in the actual presence of the Court or so nearly thereto as to interfere with the proper administration of justice, should have a right to a trial by jury.

Mr. Gompers said that the Republican party had ignored the questions affecting labor's demands, but that the Democratic party, which should set aside its platform declaration in the anti-trust bill reported by the Judiciary Committee, had declared in direct terms for excluding labor from trust legislation.

Continuing Mr. Gompers said:

What I wish to convey by the submission of the declarations of both the Democratic and for the Progressive parties is that if ever an election in any country turned upon an issue upon which the people have decided,

sale of crops and poultry, butter and eggs and milk.

At Jefferson City, in Lincoln Institute, maintained by the State to educate colored youths, the curriculum includes a course in agriculture, but the present class is not as large as it should be.

On the outskirts of St. Louis are nine fair-size dairy farms owned and operated by colored farmers. In Jackson County are 22 colored farmers, who sell their products for a high price in Kansas City. Jasper County, with the large cities of Joplin, Carthage, Webb City and Carterville, has only one colored farmer. Cole County, in which is Jefferson City, the State capital, has 16 colored farmers, who are prosperous and constantly have well-filled larders.

In Beef and Corn Markets Loring Brown Points the Doom of Cotton Tyranny

Constitution 4-23-14

J. Loring Brown gave The Constitution yesterday an antidote for the cotton fetich, for the tyranny that binds Georgia to the precarious returns from that one crop. Here it is:

"Develop home markets for beef, for corn and for produce. The farmers will raise these products once they know where they can quickly dispose of them, and always, at a profit. Do this, and Georgia and the south won't be troubled again by low-priced cotton or financial stress."

At Moultrie.

Mr. Brown illustrated his meaning partially by the establishment of the $100,000 packing house at Moultrie, in Colquitt county.

"When that house was established," he said, "prophecy was widespread that they couldn't get hogs or cattle or sheep on which to run. The farmers actually didn't know what they had. Well, as soon as the doors were flung open and it was known that a definite price would be paid for food animals the plant was supplied with enough to keep it running, full time, and the farmers got half as much for their cattle, sheep and hogs as for their cotton. There is no reason why numberless counties in Georgia can't do the same thing. And there's profit in it, direct and indirect.

Atlanta's Tribute.

"Why, every day, Atlanta alone sends away between $40,000 and $50,000 for meat products that ought to be raised in this state. Think of it! Fifty thousand a day. Multiply that by 365, and then by the other consumers in Georgia.

"These millions, we're simply giving away to the west. It's a mortgage on cotton. Is it a wonder we get 'cold feet' when Europe closes up our cotton market?

Bankers Must Help.

"The great trouble with Georgia cattle is that much of it isn't fit for beef purposes and doesn't bring beef prices. It needs to be breeded up. The process is a simple and comparatively brief one.

"Import into each community a thoroughbred bull. Cross him with a native, scrub cow. Repeat the process again. It requires two crosses and four years, and you get a product that sells for a good price, and that is incomparably more stable than cotton.

"The bankers and merchants can and must help to materialize this change, by encouraging the raising of cattle, as against

on. I believe plenty of them are g, now, to do so. Certainly, it is to eir interest.

Bring Up Acres.

"Another factor is that cattle-raising brings up the acres.

"The natural fertilizer from cattle puts back vitality in the soil.

Marketing Through Cattle.

"Ultimately, we will have well-established markets in Georgia for corn and feed products. The trouble now is that we don't raise enough of these products to create a home market surplus. The farmer who produces more than he can use can sell it all to his less-provident neighbors.

"But there is a profitable way, right now, to market every bushel of corn and oats raised here, and that is through cattle, hogs and sheep. It increases the value of the animals and of the food.

"The time to start a propaganda looking to these ends is right now, when we're tasting our lesson from too much cotton. We can squeeze all there is in cotton, and can double up on other products, beef notably, without going into debt."

TENANT SYSTEM IS DEFENDED BY EXPERT

Says That What Is Needed Is Longer Leases.

Memphis Appeal 5-12-14

TOO MUCH MOVING ABOUT

J. L. Coulter of Knapp School Also Concerned About Inadequate Methods of Marketing—Washington Tells Negro to Stay in South.

John Lee Coulter of the United States Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, and head of the Knapp School at Nashville, put the marketing of farm products above every other problem to be considered, in an address on rural life delivered yesterday at a section of the National Conference at the Central Police Station.

Mr. Coulter is the author of several works relating to the business side of farming, and is considered an authority. Last year he was a member of a commission to investigate rural credits in Europe.

The south is looked upon as the rural section of the United States. About 85 per cent of its population is rural, while in the New England states only about 15 per cent of the population is rural.

One-half of all the farms of the United States are in the south. There are 3,000,000 of them.

The especial characteristic of southern farms is that more than one-half of them are worked by tenants.

Mr. Coulter finds no fault with the tenant system per se, but he thinks short leases result in inferior crops and lack of that interest which means good citizenship and progress.

He pointed out that more than 75 per cent of all storekeepers in cities are tenants. Yet that fact is not looked upon by the storekeepers with deep concern. They remain long enough in one location to know its possibilities.

It is characteristic of the tenant that he moves frequently. He does not remain long enough on one farm to understand its soil, drainage, the variations of temperature and the various other problems which must be solved before the best results can be expected.

Constant changes, he said, impair efficiency; the short lease tenant cannot be expected to attempt soil improvement; he works one lease for all it is worth, and passes on to the next one; he is not interested in good roads; he is not interested in schools, because he moves in the middle of the school year; he does not care about his community, because the next year he may find himself in another. He never establishes himself and therefore can have no stability of interest.

He declared that there are great possibilities in the long lease system—in many cases as good as ownership, and better in some.

Some months ago he was traveling in England and met a prosperous farmer. The farm was extensive and, as are most farms in England, was in a high state of cultivation. Mr. Coulter asked the value, and received the reply that the farmer did not know, but had been told by the landlord that it was so many pounds.

Long Lease the Cure.

Mr. Coulter expressed surprise that so prosperous a farmer did not own his land. The explanation was that the farmer did not consider the land worth more than half the valuation placed upon it by the landlord, and at the landlord's figures was not yielding a fair rate of interest. The farmer calculated that it was cheaper to rent than to own, but he had a long lease, and was treating the land and the improvements thereon as if they had been his own. He had what amounted to a life estate in it.

Booker T. Washington, negro educator, made the assertion that the south is losing two billion dollars annually because the negro is not educated to that state of efficiency of which he is capable.

The keynote of his address was an appeal to white men and to the people of his race to keep the negro on the farm, to keep him in the south and away from the cities.

The negro, he said, needs to be educated in order that he may do his work better. When he first took charge of the negro school at Tuskegee some negro leaders were disappointed that he proposed to teach them how to work. They said they had worked as slaves for 250 years and it was about time they learned to live without working.

Workingmen's Progress.

He told them that there was a vast difference between being worked and working. One meant disgrace and the other civilization and progress.

He said that at Tuskegee they teach the men plain farming, not agriculture, and the women cooking, and not domestic science. Domestic science and household arts sometimes got mixed on the table with cooking and invariably caused trouble

He decried the habit, not confined to negroes, of constantly moving from place to place.

Some time after the Civil War he met an old negro who considered it his duty to move once a year. He was freed in January and each succeeding January he felt it his duty to move, sometimes not very far, to celebrate his freedom.

An old rooster belonging to the negro got so used to chancing his roost every January that when the date would roll around he would walk up to the cabin door, lie down and cross his legs just ready to be tied.

The negro population of the south amounts to about 9,000,000 persons. They own 20,000,000 acres of land, a three-fold increase within the past ten years.

The negro leader said that the white man of the south understands the negro, and that the southern negro understands the white man. The southern farm, he said, is the place for the negro.

WHITE COLLEGE AND NEGRO FARMER

The New York Age. 2-12-14

By John M. Gandy, Secretary Negro Organization Society of Virginia.

In the northeastern part of Mississippi is located Oktibbeha County, one of the black counties of the state. According to the Census of 1910 there were 19,676 people in the country. Of this number 12,675 or 66 per cent. were Negroes as against 7,000 or 36 per cent. whites.

A few white people live in the rural districts. They make up the majority of the population of the villages and large towns. Political offices, the professions, mercantile enterprises, and the like, furnish the most profitable kinds of employment for the majority of them. A few manage and control large farms.

The vast majority of the Negroes are farmers. For a great many years they used old and crude methods. This was due to a low degree of intelligence; and like all illiterate people they did not possess the necessary insight for initiative along new and progressive lines. Imitation rather than thought was at the basis of their farm methods, and the model was a heritage of ante-bellum days.

Old-Time Farming.

Aside from the evil effects of shallow plowing, there was left at the bottom in the middle of the seed bed a hard, unbroken strip of soil. This worked evil to the growing plant at the time when it needed loose, pulverized ground in which to perfect its fruitage. This was especially true in the case of drought. These evils, coupled with that of planting the same crop on the same plot of ground year after year, made the soil very unproductive. In 1889 it is significant that it took as many as four or five acres of land in some places to yield a bale of cotton.

Farming To-Day.

Twenty-one years later in 1912 many and conspicuous were the changes which had taken place. A new generation had grown up. This new generation was better dressed, somewhat better housed, better fed, and possessed a higher degree of intelligence, as evidenced by facial expression and deportment, than that of twenty-one years ago.

The change was even more marked, however, in their farm conditions. Many of the old hillsides which had formerly grown a stalk of cotton with only three or four bolls, were covered with a rank growth of cotton. Large ears of corn were hanging from strong healthy cornstalks. Here and there a large acreage was green with a rich growth of hay-grass. Colts and calves sported in spacious pastures and hogs lay grunting in their wallow in the cool shade of swampy pastures. Good gardens and diversified crops were also noticeable.

The Mississipi Agricultural College at Starkville was the cause of this upward trend. The college employs a number of Negroes to work on the college farm. Working as they must under the direction of a trained agriculturist, these men learn, through doing, many vital principles of effective farming. They eventually start up farms of their own

and thus carry with them the experience gained under trained oversight. Their success in the community where they live become an object lesson to the neighbors around. Again, the college experiments in taxing the productive capacity under certain conditions of an acre of cotton or corn in full view of the pedestrians to and from town. This experiment is watched with the keenest interest by those who are aware of what is being done, and this has proven to be a very effective kind o fobject lesson.

The college further sends out men to hold farmers' institutes for Negroes in various parts of the county. Such questions as deep plowing, crop rotation, green mauring, diversity of crops, stock-raising with reference to the breeding and care of stock, have been presented at different times. These institutes furnish experiences to the illiterate Negroes for the intelligent observation of work done on the college farm.

These influences have the effect of teaching the Negro farmers, first of all how to prepare the seed bed. One farmer said that he never uses any commercial fertilizer, for with the proper plowing he is able to get satisfactory results.

Making Farming Pay.

All progressive Negroes have learned from this college the value and the method of raising their own work animals, cows, and hogs. One Negro farmer makes a specialty of raising fast horses, blooded cattle and a fine breed of hogs. He ships Poland-China pigs to all parts of the South at a handsome price. His horses bring higher prices than most others in the county. He also raises and sells in small quantities and by the carload alfalfa and Johnson hay grass and fine varieties of seed corn.

Another farmer has two hundred acres of land fenced off into pastures devoted to the raising of beef cattle. On the other hand, there are many Negroes still clinging to the past and assuming an indifferent attitude towards progress.

A college for white boys has inspired and positively helped this county. A spirit of sympathy and good will has shown itself in conduct. Who can foretell the good that would result from similar efforts by the majority of the Southern colleges for white boys?

Let us hope that this will come about through the recent beginning of the social study of the Negro by two of our greatest Southern universities and through the zealous efforts of men like Dr. Weatherford to awaken the consciousness of the Southern white students to the needs of the Negro. This would hasten the moral, social, economic and physical regeneration of the masses of Negroes, to the advantage of both races.

BUSINESS MEN AND FARMERS.

Never was there a greater opportunity for the Negro business man and farmer to show his capability [illegible] the heights of an extraordinary emergency than now. The course he will pursue under the present unfavorable conditions, will greatly determine his future destiny for weal or woe. He owes it to his children and their posterity, to make a wise choice. In view of the fact that he is now laying the foundation in the business world, it behooves him to guard well his steps and make no mistake; for every act of his, bears so directly upon the future prosperity and happiness of the future generations, that he can not afford to be thoughtless and shiftless. He should summon all his intellectual and moral powers and invoke the aid of Almighty God to steer his ship aright, to the end that he may not run upon a rock. For the present business man and farmer, "Constitute the only isolated Ararat upon which the Olive Branch of peace and prosperity of the race can be perceived and deposited for our people. Too long have they depended upon others to do their thinking and acting. But the time has come when they must do for themselves; for the very man who does your thinking, looses respect for you, because he does do your thinking.

The Negro business men must get together and organize and devise ways and means by which they can bring about the best results, the farmers must do the same. This is an age of organization, and no people can succeed without it. Our white neighbors among whom we live, give us the best evidence of that fact, they have railroad companies, steam line companies, bank and clearing house companies, farmers' unions, organized charities,—in short, they are organized in every line of human endeavor. If they can not dispense with it, much less can we who are just laying the foundation as a race.

The Independent deprecates the fact that our people are so slow to see the importance of organization. We have an organization in Atlanta, known as the Board of Trade, to encourage and foster the business men and businesses throughout the city. But we regret to say that not 25 per cent. of the Negro business men of the community attend the business meetings; they prefer to stand around, gossip, frolic and whittle away their valuable time. Seventy-five per cent. of them have no interest whatever in an organization that is of the most vital interest to them. In these meetings, they could learn how to interest their people to patronize them and take an interest in their business. The reason why they do not secure any more patronage from their own people, is because they do not know how to offer and present to them the greatest ducement for their patronage; and as a result, they do not get their trade. They open their places of business, stay in a month or two, the next thing you hear of them they have gone out of business. All this is due to the fact that they do not know business principles.

The Board of Trade and other business organizations, are organized to give this very information,—how to interest and get the people to patronize them. But they would rather while away their time at some place where no good can be accomplished whatever. This has accounted very largely for the failure of most Negro businesses.

The Negro farmers have no organization so far as we know, except in a remote way. We only hear of the Farmers' Conferences at Tuskegee Ala., and Georgia State Industrial College at Savannah, about the first of each year, after that they adjourn sine die until the next year. It is true that Doctors Washington and Wright are doing a great deal of good in these conferences, but the farmers should not stop there, that should only be a stepping stone for Farmers' Unions to be held among themselves, where they can discuss ways and means of bringing about the best results in cultivating the soil. They should discuss the best means of producing the best results from the smallest acreage; what proportions should be planted in corn, cotton, wheat, oats and other grain products. They should discuss how to raise the best hogs, cows horses and chickens. By enterchange of ideas and views in these unions they would be greatly benefited and lay the foundation for even greater things for the present generation and those to come after them.

The Independent has cried aloud and spared not; it has urged and warned our people, that they must get busy and stop triffling away their time; that they must think more, find out what others are thinking, and get the best thoughts along the line of business in which they are engaged,—whether business, professional or church; for this is an age of thought and the people who would make themselves felt, must think, plan and organize if they wish to be recognized in this great busy civilization. Let us do this, let us organized and attend our Board of Trade, Farmers' Unions, school meetings, society meetings and our church conferences and association, and our future is assured.

NEGRO FIRMS HELP COTTON MOVEMENT

Nashville Tennessean 10-29-14

Among the latest business concerns of Nashville to join the "buy-a-bale-of-cotton" movement are two well-known negro firms. One is the National Baptist Publishing Board at the corner of Locust and Second avenue, north. This publishing house is under the management of Rev. R. H. Boyd, who is the founder of the institution and who employs in the neighborhood of two hundred members of his race. The other is the Nashville Globe, a local paper that is said to have a large circulation among their people in Nashville and the state of Tennessee. Both of them will exhibit this cotton at their respective locations.

RACE AND COLOR

Boston Post 11-3-14

South Carolina under negro domination? Such would be an astounding development of the idea upon which that State led in the turmoil of a half century ago. But what are the facts?

In 1900, half the farmers in South Carolina, white and black, owned their places, and the other half were tenants; in 1910, only one-third of the farmers were landowners, the other two-thirds being tenants. In the meantime, the white land-owning farmers had decreased their acreage 312,000, having sold out their places and moved to town, while the negroes had increased their holdings 136,000 acres.

The withdrawal of over 125,000 whites from the farms into occupations in the cotton mills is signficant. But do they profit by the change? It is a reasonable assumption that a majority do not.

Negro Maid Buys Bale Of Cotton With Savings

Advertiser 10-10-14

Probably no better spirit has been manifested since the "Buy-a-Bale-of-Cotton" was launched than that shown by Mattie Philips, a negro maid in the home of Dr. Robert Goldthwaite, who invested her savings of over $50 in a bale of the staple so that she might assist in the relief of the farmer.

The other day the maid went to her employer and informed him that she wished to buy a bale of cotton. He gave her the market price, but she made known her intention to pay 10 cents a pound for her bale that she might do her share toward helping the farmers, the people from whom she came into Dr. Golthwaite's service, 15 years ago.

Now Mattie Philips has a perfectly good bale of cotton on the porch of her little home at 23 Yougene Street, and Tom Cook, a negro tenant on the place of E. L. Alley, at Grandview, has $52,75 of her perfectly good savings for the 527 pounds of lint for which he

NEGROES PLEAD TO THE WHITE FARMERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Advertiser 11-17-14

We, the Farmers' Club of Beats 18 and 20, ask the land owners and white farmers in said county to consider us as laborers, since we have been serving since 1620 until 1914. Though we thank the white people of Montgomery County for their kindness and means in which they have extended towards us in Montgomery County in the past, therefore under the present conditions in which you know we are compelled to ask you through your paper to reduce your land rents, for, whereas the boll weevil is in our cotton farms, and whereas the European war has disturbed the commission of our cotton trade, and whereas the merchants won't risk advances on live stock, be it,

Resolved, That we plant to the plow ten acres of cotton and five acres of corn, three acres of wheat, two acres of potatoes, four acres of oats, one acre of garden and peas in every convenient place.

WILSON ASKED TO VETO SMITH-LEVER MEASURE

Constitution 5-6-14

New York, May 5.—An appeal to President Wilson to veto the Smith-Lever agricultural extension bill on the ground that it discriminates against the negro farmers of the south, has been made in the name of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by Jane Addams, Herbert Parsons, Moorfield Storey, Oswald Garrison Villard, Joel E. Spingarn and Willam S. Bennett. The letter, as made public yesterday, calls attention to the fact that the two amendments adopted in the senate "which eliminated from the bill its discriminatory features," were thrown out by the conference committee and that the conference report has just been adopted by both houses of congress.

The bill in its present form, says the writers, leaves to the state legislature the question of distributing federal appropriations for diffusing knowledge concerning agriculture and home economics. Experience has shown, they assert, that by such distribution the negro will suffer.

SOUTHERN CONGRESS APPOINTS BUREAU HEAD

Prominent Educator Takes Up Work of Securing Agricultural Settlers For The South.

Advertiser 9-23-14

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22—The Southern Commercial Congress today announced the appointment of W. Jett Lauck, formerly professor of economics at Washington and Lee University and recently connected with the United States Immigration Commission, as counsellor and head of its newly reorganized bureau of immigration. Mr. Lauck will be assisted by LeRoy Hodges, of Petersburg, Va.

The new bureau will have as its object location of desirable permanent agricultural settlers on Southern farms.

Agriculture – 1914

Improvement of

Houston, Tex.

Post OCT 4 1914

Progress of the Texas Negro

MUCH M[U]ST BE DONE T[O] INSPIRE H[I]M AMBITION

To The Post:

The majority of the negroes of Texas are engaged in the occupation of farming. Most of them are farming because their fathers farmed before them, they were raised on the farm and know little else, and really little of that. Their woeful ignorance of the science underlying agriculture, of recent discoveries, of the use of modern machinery, and the marketing of their crops is appalling. They do not practice home economics because they have not had the opportunity to learn anything about the subject. So these people go on from year to year doing the work of the farm in very much the same way it was done a generation ago. No particular effort has been made to reach these farmers with modern agriculture and home economics. The beauty, independence and importance of the farmer's life have never come to them. They only know the drudgery and wretchedness of it all. Is it surprising that so many are deserting the farms and seeking service in our cities? To those acquainted with conditions surrounding the average negro farmer and farmhand it is not surprising.

There are some conspicuous examples of successful negro farmers in Texas, but theirs are individual cases, and most of these successes are due to fortunate circumstances and not to any particular effort to promote the general efficiency of the negro farmers as a class. Articles appearing in the papers from time to time, speaking of negro prosperity and citing these conspicuous individual successes as examples of what the masses are doing are misleading and really do the negro farmers, less fortunately situated, great harm, for those in position to help him help himself conclude from the beautiful stories they read that the negro farmer is doing well enough. We are all glad that a few individual negro farmers are succeeding, but at the same time we are very much concerned about that very large body of toilers of the soil for whom the sun of prosperity has never risen.

Honest men everywhere will agree that the only way to eradicate evils, and to make living conditions better is to tell the truth about them, awaken sentiment, find a remedy and then apply it. The purpose of this letter is to arouse the people of Texas to the importance of making farm life more attractive to the negro farmer and thus hold him on the farm, and to attract others back to this life from congested conditions of living in negro sections in our large cities, making all of them useful citizens in their communities and producers of not only enough to supply their own needs but producers of a surplus which may go a long way to increase our food supply and materially reduce the high cost of living.

Now somebody please rise and say, "it can't be done—we've tried it." The fact is it has never been tried in Texas in earnest on a sufficiently large scale and well organized effort to result in much good. A few good men in our State are doing the best they can, for example: R. L. Smith of Colorado county and now of Waco has done more than any other single individual for the uplift and improvement of negro farmers through the medium of his farmers' organization, the Farmers' Improvement society, and an agricultural college at Ladonia, Texas, supported by this organization. This society is self-supporting and deserves additional aid for its splendid work. E. L. Blackshear of Prairie View college has rendered service that is valuable to the negro farmer through his Negro Farmers' congress, of which he is founder and president. The agricultural department of the same college, with C. H. Waller at the head, has turned out a number of young colored men who are doing excellent. But almost all the work done so far has been voluntary, and has not reached the masses through organized effort emanating from some central authority. The State of Texas has never put forth any effort to reach these farmers and increase their efficiency, and yet a large proportion of the productive wealth of Texas is committed to this unskilled labor through the rich lands they control and cultivate.

The vast area of rich lands in Texas, her splendid climate, her generous laws and her warm hearted citizens constitute a firm base upon which will be erected from year to year a commonwealth of unprecedented prosperity. The instruction given in her agricultural colleges and the research work in her experiment stations will be carried to the people of the rural districts. Already the work of organization has begun and instruction and demonstration in agriculture and home economics in conformity with the provisions of the Smith-Lever bill, will inaugurate the work of popular education of the working farmer. Surely the good people of Texas must see an immediate and urgent need for this work among the people "furthest down." All the arguments in favor of extension work among any people anywhere apply with greater emphasis to the negro farmer.

In Sunday's issue of The Post, September 27, 1914, Prof. E. L. Blackshear, principal of the Prairie View State Normal and Industrial college, wrote an interesting article on "The Progress of the Negro in Texas." This writer is familiar with the facts and knows that what Professor Blackshear says is true, but there is another picture showing the poverty and distress of the negro in Texas, which makes no less interesting reading and excites less of pride and more of pity in the breast of every patriotic Texan.

The 1910 census shows that 69,918 farms are operated by negroes in Texas. Twenty-one thousand, two hundred and thirty-two of these farms are owned by them, while the remaining 48,605 farms are rented. Of the conditions surrounding the 21,232 farms owned, the census is more or less silent. Here is the observation of one who has taught school on some of these farms, and visited many more in the course of 20 years work principally among farmers, and who is possessed of a fair knowledge of agriculture and some farm experience.

Real estate—Land, used year after year with no effort at conservation. Yards, front and back, dirty. Horse and cow lot and hog pen immediately in rear or front of dwelling. Drinking water polluted by filth. Houses, average two front rooms opening into each other, no hallways, poor light and ventilation, except what comes through cracks in a poor covering. Flues dangerous on account of fire. No paint used.

Equipment—Barns made of logs or rough boards. Usually too small to house implements and store crops. Let in rain and rats underneath. Sheds, if any, inadequate to shelter stock. No paint. Fences, two or three strands of rusty barbed wire, broken in places and all kinds of posts from a living tree to a dead sapling. Broken down near gates. Implements, antiquated. New machinery purchased is left in the field or otherwise exposed to rain and weather until needed again. Poor, if any, tools for repair work. Horses and mules poorly fed. Used all the week plowing or going to town, and all day Sunday going to church, where they usually stand all day hitched and unfed. Wagons, repaired only when they cease to run at all.

Crops—Cotton and corn, cash crops. No advance planning on acreage or methods of cultivation to meet future needs. Poor cultivation; this applies to all crops. Rarely is an oat crop planted, although work stock must be fed. No effort made to raise live stock. Depend on buying what is needed from some thrifty neighbor or from traders traveling through the country. Usually get the worst of trades, paying high price for low grade stock. Milk cow fit only for beef. Doesn't seem to know that better grades cost very little more, eat no more food, and yet produce twice the quantity of milk and cream. No use attempting to raise chickens, as lice, mites and weasels at them up. Hogs are too much trouble, as they break into the fields, and, anyhow, they take cholera and die. Astonishing, but too true! The negro farmer actually buys in town butter, eggs, garden stuff, fruit and salt and smoked cured meats.

Diversification and rotation—Their importance has yet to be impressed on the negro farmer. He does not practice either.

Harvesting crops—The crop is gotten out of the field only so rapidly as necessity demands or cash is needed. Cotton carelessly gathered and frequently strict middling is classed lower grade because of the dirt in it. Corn is carelessly gathered and much of it is left in the fields for the neighbors' live stock to fatten on when they are turned into the field. It is no use to pull fodder, as the value is small and the weather is too hot. Each bale of cotton ginned is a day lost from work and a general frolic from the proceeds of the sale. If, perchance, a little truck is raised, it is hurriedly pulled, picked, seldom washed or bundled, is not selected for the trade, and yet he wonders why he got so little for it. "Hog killing" time is almost passed into history. The dying wail of the "fattening hog" which used to fill the air with Highland music at Thanksgiving and Christmas times and caused a copious supply of saliva to flow in pleasant anticipation of country cured hams and bacon, country sausage and spare ribs, has been relegated to the narrow confines of the death chambers of our modern city packing houses.

Marketing crops—The negro farmer reads no bulletins, few agricultural journals and seldom sees the daily or semi-weekly market reports published in our papers. He has not taken any interest in the subject of transportation. Freight, express and parcel post rates and their relative value and the importance of this service do not interest him, as he has nothing to ship. Demand and supply appeal to him only to the amount of food required or demanded to supply his appetite. He has never been taught anything about farm accounts, and so his receipts and expenditures have no safe check, and often, more often than otherwise, these expenditures are injudicious.

Home life—The fireside appeals to the older members of the family. Here they gather to talk of the past. Very little planning for the future and only a spare use of books and papers. In fact, there is nothing to interest the younger generation of today. The old, unpainted, ill-constructed house called home has ceased to be attractive to the boy or girl who has attended school and learned something of modern living. In most cases his thoughts turn immediately to the city, where his brothers have caught the spirit of modern life, live in better houses and have some of the comforts of modern life. Is it any wonder he leaves the farm for the city? And in proportion as these young negroes leave the farm and flock to the cities "the problem" grows harder of solution.

General observations show that the majority of the workers are careless and indifferent. The spirit of hope, of interest in things living and growing seems to be dormant. A mere existence is all asked for or expected. There is no display of inventive genius, no saving and planning for the future. We again repeat that there are exceptions, but the above criticisms are absolutely true of the majority of our negro farmers. And if it is true of those who own their farms, what must be the condition of those who rent? What can be said of the tenant farmer? Where directed by some intelligent owner whom he respects and has confidence in he does well, but in most cases his condition and that of his large family is pitiable. A mere child in mind, a man in body, he works and works, and yet accomplishes nothing. This condition can be stopped to his advantage and to the advantage of the landlord. Common sense, business and humanity demand a change.

Last year there were overflows and excessive rainfalls. Many negroes were unable to make crops at all, especially where they depended upon one crop. A few made some corn and cotton. There is no market for the cotton. They have raised no foodstuff. There is no cash to be gotten. Acute distress prevails among these people. Ask any so-called country banker how many negroes are begging loans, and his reply will give a fair answer to the conditions everywhere. Something must be done to prevent the repeated recurrence of these distressful conditions. Will the authorities embrace the opportunity for constructive work among the negro farmers of Texas?

The opportunity lies in the well equipped agricultural department of the State college at Prairie View and the inauguration in connection therewith of extension work for the popular education of these negro farmers in conformity with the provisions of the Smith-Lever bill, which work is being directed by Hon. Clarence Ousley of College Station, Texas. To utilize the plant at Prairie View in this direction will do more to build up a better class of negro citizens in this State than any other one agency. Its wisdom will immediately manifest itself in increased production of a larger variety of crops. The organization of this extension work among negro farmers at this time is urgent. The effort will meet a hearty response from a grateful people, a patient, hard working people.

Wade C. Rollins.

The Farmers' Lobby

Cotton Plantations Need the Negro—Will They Keep Him?

By Judson C. Welliver

HERE is a little rice story that points a cotton moral. It was told to me by an expert in agricultural theory and practice who thinks there is the possibility of a vastly greater calamity to American agriculture in the present cotton prices than most people have yet realized.

He is afraid the remedies thus far proposed may be worse than the disease.

The very day that this rice story was told to me I read in the papers that President Wilson is not giving much encouragement to people who want to cut down next year's cotton crop by half or more.

It made me wonder if some cool-headed Southerner had been telling the President some practical facts. Being a Southerner himself and afflicted with an analytical mind, maybe the President knew it without being told.

Anyhow, to the rice story and its moral.

Once upon a time there was a great production of rice in the swamp sections of the South Atlantic coast. It was profitable and seemed likely to go on forever and ever.

Then the Gulf rice fields began to develop; and presently they were turning out so much that rice didn't pay to raise. The Atlantic coast growers laid off. They'd wait until prices promised some profit.

Now see what happened to them:

Their rice laborers were negroes who through many generations in Africa and our own swamp sections had become immune as regards malaria. They didn't get it. They were the only people capable of raising rice in that coast region.

When rice culture was suspended these immune laborers scattered. Then the price went back, and when it was time to resume the business they couldn't be brought back.

They have never come back.

Neither has the rice crop of the South Atlantic coast. "And it never will; it never can," impressively declared my expert.

Remember the Rice Lesson

Now for the cotton moral. He stated it thus:

"Cotton is king; and the army of servitors who uphold his power is made up of negro laborers.

"Let that army be dispersed from the cotton fields, and it will never be brought back.

"Nothing is so certain as that the negro plantation laborer, out of work and instantly out of money, will drift to the town and city.

"Once there he almost never gets back to the soil.

"The farm, which needs him, has lost him. The town, which doesn't need him, has him on its hands.

"The Atlantic rice growers let him go, and they lost their industry with him. People who are advising the South to cut its cotton acreage half or more for next year will do well to consider what it will do to their labor.

"Unless they find something else with which to keep the labor busy and on the land, they will lose it; and a repetition, with cotton, of the disaster that rice suffered would be a calamity not only to the South but to the nation and the world

"For there is no single crop in all the world that is so important to all the world as the cotton yield of the American cotton States. I don't think it is too much to say that if a mistake now should deal such a blow to cotton as the Eastern rice industry sustained it would be looked upon a generation hence as the deepest scar that the present war had made on the world."

Rather impressive language that!

Yet when I went away from the departmental expert, lest perchance he might be regarded as an impractical high-brow, and began asking farmers who farm farms—people who know the business of raising cotton and handling negro labor—I found them putting the case just as strongly. Their first fear concerned this labor difficulty.

It's a problem for the South, first, to reduce the cotton output of next year as much as possible; and, second, to keep the labor from leaving the plantations, and thus precipitating in the future a still worse condition.

How is that to be done?

Go back now to the expert.

So gravely is this problem of cotton and labor regarded by the authorities at the Department of Agriculture that they are rushing work on a bulletin of special advice to Southern farmers about this cotton crisis. They are appealing to farm experts in the South, as well as to the Department's own specialists, for advice about meeting the situation.

And first of all the advisers come up with this:

"Raise what you must eat!"

That is the basis of the whole project. It is not half so appealing to the imagination as the great scheme recently proposed from London, of an international cotton pool with perhaps $300,000,000 capital for the purpose of buying up a vast store of cotton and holding it as a world reserve stock against periods of possible short production in the future.

But it is chock-full of common sense just the same. Which same has been notably absent from much of the cotton discussion.

"Let me illustrate," proceeded our expert friend. "How many people know that practically all the vetch seed used in this country is imported from Europe? or that already there is certainty of a very short supply?

"Now, I don't advise people to quit cotton and go raising vetch seed. That would be sheer nonsense. But I do say that the small number of people in this country who know how to produce vetch seed should get busy and produce it. There'll be money in it; big money.

"This is no time for inexperienced people to jump into such specialties as this. It might make their second estate worse than their first. But the man who knows how to raise seeds in general will do well to inform himself about the outlook for those kinds with which he is familiar and can get best results.

"Take clover. That comes largely from abroad too. It will not come next year as heretofore. Raise it.

"But above all, let every Southern farmer plan his work for next year with the idea of raising what he will eat, just as far as possible."

There has been a very wide-spread circulation of the advice to Southern farmers to cut out the cotton and go into corn-raising. To a certain extent the best authorities agree that this is a good move, but they urge that it may be overdone very easily. Here's a corn story with a moral:

A number of years ago the boll weevil invaded Louisiana and made cotton-growing unprofitable. At that time Louisiana was a buyer of corn. The Louisiana price was the Chicago price plus freight down to Louisiana.

Tom Sisson's Explanation

Many Louisiana planters went into corn-growing. The earliest of them made good profits, for they sold at the Chicago price plus freight.

But Louisiana presently was raising so much that instead of a deficit it had a surplus of corn. Then what?

The price fell to the Chicago quotation *minus* freight!

Not much money in that!

The State didn't have live stock to convert its corn into something profitably marketable.

And that's what's the matter with the live-stock proposition in the South now.

It's all well enough to advise the Southerners to go out and buy live stock right away; but where will they get the money to pay for it

Tom Sisson, Congressman from Mississippi, who farms some thousands of acres and knows all about cotton and cotton problems, lectured a group of friends the other day about practical aspects of this problem.

"It's no use telling our people to rush out and buy live stock, and then raise corn to feed it," he said. "The man who most needs the live stock hasn't the money to buy it; and the man who has the money, in such a time as this, is going to feel so comfortable about it that he will not want to speculate in live stock. The one can't stock up, and the other doesn't need to."

"Tell them to hang on to every pig, every sow, every calf, every chicken," declared the expert, to whom we will return for a moment. "Almost every small farmer can manage somehow to get enough of these to raise his own meat, and to consume a good share of the corn it will be practicable for him to raise. Raise as great a variety as possible of the things that can be eaten, for there will be mighty little money with which to buy."

But whatever the cropping or live-stock plan that may be adopted, all the conservative and really intelligent Southern authorities invariably come back to the basic proposition that shouldn't be forgotten:

"Keep the negro labor."

That means, first of all, that cotton must not be abandoned. If one farmer is determined to cut it out entirely, he should consider what his neighbors are doing. Perhaps enough of them will continue in cotton to insure employment, at some sort of wages, for the neighborhood's colored labor. One of the strong reasons in favor of corn is that, next to cotton, the Southern negroes know most about raising corn. It will help to keep them on the soil.

Dr. W. J. Spillman, head of the Office of Farm Management of the Department of Agriculture, outlines his advice to the Southern farmers in a most effective statement. He has this labor thought always close to the top of his mind.

Dr. Spillman's Opinion

"More than anything else, in the broader view of the South's agricultural needs, there is necessity for getting more land cleared and under crops. This is an ideal time to do some of this work. Labor will be very cheap. It can be kept busy, even though at low wages, clearing land. Then it will be there when it is needed again for crop-raising.

"If the States were to consider issuing bonds as a means to tide over this emergency, they would do well to loan out the proceeds with a view to getting land cleared. That would be a great permanent increase in the wealth of the country. The cotton crop is going to remain the mainstay of Southern agriculture; it mustn't be sacrificed for the future. Nothing else would be so profitable on the whole. The world is its market, and will continue to be. On the whole, experience has proved that wars affect agricultural production and prices much less than seems just now to be imagined."

There are some considerable sections in the South where wheat is not raised, and could be. Doctor Spillman advises against wheat unless in a small way for food at home, lest the labor leave.

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The Farmers' Lobby

Cotton Plantations Need the Negro—Will They Keep Him?

By Judson C. Welliver

HERE is a little rice story that points a cotton moral. It was told to me by an expert in agricultural theory and practice who thinks there is the possibility of a vastly greater calamity to American agriculture in the present cotton prices than most people have yet realized.

He is afraid the remedies thus far proposed may be worse than the disease.

The very day that this rice story was told to me I read in the papers that President Wilson is not giving much encouragement to people who want to cut down next year's cotton crop by half or more.

It made me wonder if some cool-headed Southerner had been telling the President some practical facts. Being a Southerner himself and afflicted with an analytical mind, maybe the President knew it without being told.

Anyhow, to the rice story and its moral.

Once upon a time there was a great production of rice in the swamp sections of the South Atlantic coast. It was profitable and seemed likely to go on forever and ever.

Then the Gulf rice fields began to develop; and presently they were turning out so much that rice didn't pay to raise. The Atlantic coast growers laid off. They'd wait until prices promised some profit.

Now see what happened to them:

Their rice laborers were negroes who through many generations in Africa and our own swamp sections had become immune as regards malaria. They didn't get it. They were the only people capable of raising rice in that coast region.

When rice culture was suspended these immune laborers scattered. Then the price went back, and when it was time to resume the business they couldn't be brought back.

They have never come back.

Neither has the rice crop of the South Atlantic coast. "And it never will; it never can," impressively declared my expert.

Remember the Rice Lesson

Now for the cotton moral. He stated it thus:

"Cotton is king; and the army of servitors who uphold his power is made up of negro laborers.

"Let that army be dispersed from the cotton fields, and it will never be brought back.

"Nothing is so certain as that the negro plantation laborer, out of work and instantly out of money, will drift to the town and city.

"Once there he almost never gets back to the soil.

"The farm, which needs him, has lost him. The town, which doesn't need him, has him on its hands.

"The Atlantic rice growers let him go, and they lost their industry with him. People who are advising the South to cut its cotton acreage half or more for next year will do well to consider what it will do to their labor.

"Unless they find something else with which to keep the labor busy and on the land, they will lose it; and a repetition, with cotton, of the disaster that rice suffered would be a calamity not only to the South but to the nation and the world

"For there is no single crop in all the world that is so important to all the world as the cotton yield of the American cotton States. I don't think it is too much to say that if a mistake now should deal such a blow to cotton as the Eastern rice industry sustained it would be looked upon a generation hence as the deepest scar that the present war had made on the world."

Rather impressive language that!

Yet when I went away from the departmental expert, lest perchance he might be regarded as an impractical high-brow, and began asking farmers who farm farms—people who know the business of raising cotton and handling negro labor—I found them putting the case just as strongly. Their first fear concerned this labor difficulty.

It's a problem for the South, first, to reduce the cotton output of next year as much as possible; and, second, to keep the labor from leaving the plantations, and thus precipitating in the future a still worse condition.

How is that to be done?

Go back now to the expert.

So gravely is this problem of cotton and labor regarded by the authorities at the Department of Agriculture that they are rushing work on a bulletin of special advice to Southern farmers about this cotton crisis. They are appealing to farm experts in the South, as well as to the Department's own specialists, for advice about meeting the situation.

And first of all the advisers come up with this:

"Raise what you must eat!"

That is the basis of the whole project. It is not half so appealing to the imagination as the great scheme recently proposed from London, of an international cotton pool with perhaps $300,000,000 capital for the purpose of buying up a vast store of cotton and holding it as a world reserve stock against periods of possible short production in the future.

But it is chock-full of common sense just the same. Which same has been notably absent from much of the cotton discussion.

"Let me illustrate," proceeded our expert friend. "How many people know that practically all the vetch seed used in this country is imported from Europe? or that already there is certainty of a very short supply?

"Now, I don't advise people to quit cotton and go raising vetch seed. That would be sheer nonsense. But I do say that the small number of people in this country who know how to produce vetch seed should get busy and produce it. There'll be money in it; big money.

"This is no time for inexperienced people to jump into such specialties as this. It might make their second estate worse than their first. But the man who knows how to raise seeds in general will do well to inform himself about the outlook for those kinds with which he is familiar and can get best results.

"Take clover. That comes largely from abroad too. It will not come next year as heretofore. Raise it.

"But above all, let every Southern farmer plan his work for next year with the idea of raising what he will eat, just as far as possible."

There has been a very wide-spread circulation of the advice to Southern farmers to cut out the cotton and go into corn-raising. To a certain extent the best authorities agree that this is a good move, but they urge that it may be overdone very easily. Here's a corn story with a moral:

A number of years ago the boll weevil invaded Louisiana and made cotton-growing unprofitable. At that time Louisiana was a buyer of corn. The Louisiana price was the Chicago price plus freight down to Louisiana.

Tom Sisson's Explanation

Many Louisiana planters went into corn-growing. The earliest of them made good profits, for they sold at the Chicago price plus freight.

But Louisiana presently was raising so much that instead of a deficit it had a surplus of corn. Then what?

The price fell to the Chicago quotation *minus* freight!

Not much money in that!

The State didn't have live stock to convert its corn into something profitably marketable.

And that's what's the matter with the live-stock proposition in the South now.

It's all well enough to advise the Southerners to go out and buy live stock right away; but where will they get the money to pay for it

Tom Sisson, Congressman from Mississippi, who farms some thousands of acres and knows all about cotton and cotton problems, lectured a group of friends the other day about practical aspects of this problem.

"It's no use telling our people to rush out and buy live stock, and then raise corn to feed it," he said. "The man who most needs the live stock hasn't the money to buy it; and the man who has the money, in such a time as this, is going to feel so comfortable about it that he will not want to speculate in live stock. The one can't stock up, and the other doesn't need to."

"Tell them to hang on to every pig, every sow, every calf, every chicken," declared the expert, to whom we will return for a moment. "Almost every small farmer can manage somehow to get enough of these to raise his own meat, and to consume a good share of the corn it will be practicable for him to raise. Raise as great a variety as possible of the things that can be eaten, for there will be mighty little money with which to buy."

But whatever the cropping or live-stock plan that may be adopted, all the conservative and really intelligent Southern authorities invariably come back to the basic proposition that shouldn't be forgotten:

"Keep the negro labor."

That means, first of all, that cotton must not be abandoned. If one farmer is determined to cut it out entirely, he should consider what his neighbors are doing. Perhaps enough of them will continue in cotton to insure employment, at some sort of wages, for the neighborhood's colored labor. One of the strong reasons in favor of corn is that, next to cotton, the Southern negroes know most about raising corn. It will help to keep them on the soil.

Dr. W. J. Spillman, head of the Office of Farm Management of the Department of Agriculture, outlines his advice to the Southern farmers in a most effective statement. He has this labor thought always close to the top of his mind.

Dr. Spillman's Opinion

"More than anything else, in the broader view of the South's agricultural needs, there is necessity for getting more land cleared and under crops. This is an ideal time to do some of this work. Labor will be very cheap. It can be kept busy, even though at low wages, clearing land. Then it will be there when it is needed again for crop-raising.

"If the States were to consider issuing bonds as a means to tide over this emergency, they would do well to loan out the proceeds with a view to getting land cleared. That would be a great permanent increase in the wealth of the country. The cotton crop is going to remain the mainstay of Southern agriculture; it mustn't be sacrificed for the future. Nothing else would be so profitable on the whole. The world is its market, and will continue to be. On the whole, experience has proved that wars affect agricultural production and prices much less than seems just now to be imagined."

There are some considerable sections in the South where wheat is not raised, and could be. Doctor Spillman advises against wheat unless in a small way for food at home, lest the labor leave.

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Agriculture — 1914

Improvement of

FROM POPPY TO COTTON.

According to Richard Spillane, writing in The American Review of Reviews, the south's long-vaunted international cotton production supremacy has at last been successfully challenged by the world. Mr. Spillane says that in the season of 1912-13 the south raised approximately two-thirds of all the cotton grown in the world. The season of 1913-14 is likely to see the south's proportion of the world's supply driven down to 50 per cent or even lower. If that were all, the situation would not be so menacing, thinks Mr. Spillane. But he says that the phenomenal outside increase in cotton production is only a forerunner of still further increases which may, unless the south takes [illegible] shake its fundamental agricultural industry to the very foundations.

China is the country that has, in a manner of speaking, "put a spoke in the wheel" of the south's boasted monopoly. And she has done so in a manner nothing short of dramatic. Cotton has been produced in China for about 1,000 years. But so vagrant and unreliable have been statistics from the big nation that the Chinese crop until a few years ago has not been considered as a serious factor in the world's cotton production.

Things now are changed. Last season China produced nearly five and a half millions of bales of 500 pounds each. That is nearly a million increase in a year. The national ban upon opium is the cause of the recent tremendous increase. Formerly a tremendous percentage of China's arable land was devoted to cultivation of the poppy, since opium with China was almost as staple a cash product as cotton with the south. Then came the edict that China must throw off the chains of opium, and with it the eventual mandate that death was to be the portion of the Chinese farmer who grew the poppy for commercial purposes after a stipulated term.

The acres formerly devoted to the poppy have been given over to cotton. As the Chinese find the profit in cotton, and as they perfect themselves in its cultivation, it is probable they will increase their crop indefinitely. In the meantime, France is moving to subsidize cotton-growing in Morocco. England long has pursued that course. The Indian and the Russian crops are increasing.

Mr. Spillane points out that if the south's challenged supremacy is to be held, three courses are indicated:

1. Stopping the grievous and unscientific waste in picking, marketing and shipping cotton, ranging between forty to fifty million dollars a year.

2. Lowering the expense of production, by intensive and intelligent methods and more reliable labor, by mechanical devices, such as cotton picking machinery and other labor-saving and expediting processes.

3. Diversification of crops in the southern states.

All three of these changes should be made, whether a pound of cotton is raised outside of this country. The menace of foreign competition ought to hasten their application. And there is no time to lose. We are entering the era of the keenest industrial and economic competition in the world's history. If the south is not to lose one of its foremost assets, it must straightway set its agricultural house in order.

MARKET AND OLIGARCHY.

Communications published today from Benjamin W. Hunt, ex-president of the Georgia State Bankers' association, and W. D. Nelson, of Columbia county, open an interesting vista of speculation regarding the part played by the all-cotton fetich in choking out a market for other products.

Mr. Hunt, who is an authority, says that neither he nor his neighbors can find a market for thoroughbred hogs and cattle. He believes this is due almost wholly to lack of co-operation between farmers, and points to what European countries have accomplished through this agency.

Mr. Nelson has other ideas, and they are reminiscent of the remarkable article published in The Constitution some weeks ago by J. T. Holleman, and charging a cotton oligarchy. Mr. Nelson says he cannot sell hay to his neighbor, because the latter buys from the merchant on credit; he cannot sell to the merchant, because the latter buys on 30, 60 and 90 days' time and so on in a vicious circle.

There can be no question whatever that there is, as Mr. Hunt says, **an almost total absence of co-operation among southern farmers.** It is true also that the southern farmer lives to a great extent on credit.

It is as certain as anything can be that the south's present agricultural system cannot much longer endure. It is rotten to the core economically, and financially it is a first aid to bankruptcy and stunted development. The idea of living wholly on one crop is, as Mr. Hunt says, simple speculation, as wild and inexcusable as gambling in Wall street. And the system, as pointed by Mr. Nelson, that embarrasses the creation of home markets by placing a premium upon the purchase of foreign products is fundamentally wrong.

A Providential opportunity is offered in the breathing spell represented by the European war to correct this costly and disastrous system. We must encourage the raising of home supplies. We must encourage the creation of markets for them. The constructive thought of the south can engage in no work more profitable or patriotic.

LANDLORD AND TENANT.

It is well understood, of course, that the letters recently published in The Constitution from J. T. Holleman and H. G. Hastings, alleging the existence of a so-called cotton oligarchy, had direct reference to the landlord and tenant system which is prevalent not only in Georgia, but throughout the south, wherever there is a bale of cotton grown.

Subsequently, Judge T. E. Patterson, of the state prison commission, wrote of the alleged evils of the system and proposed as a remedy for it either taxation of rentals or repeal of the crop lien laws; the one putting a tax upon rental income, and the other proposing to increase the risk to the point where it would become unattractive.

Three different views of the matter are expressed by correspondents whose letters are published today. One commends Judge Patterson's proposal to the extent that some amelioration of the condition of the tenant class should be devised; another holds that the enactments proposed would react injuriously upon the tenants, while, according to the supply merchant, his present risk is too great and it is a struggle now for him to keep out of the bankruptcy courts.

The important phase of the problem is the charge made by Mr. Holleman and Mr. Hastings that under the present system the tenant is not permitted to make anything but cotton, as that is demanded both by the landlord and supply merchant who refuse land and supplies to those who will not enter into agreement to make cotton only. It is pointed out that this not only forces the tenant to grow cotton to the point of overproduction, but constitutes an abridgement of his liberty and the right to make his living at home, whereas he is now compelled to purchase all of his supplies, whether from his landlord or elsewhere, at high prices which are admittedly made to protect against losses due to failure on the part of some to meet their obligations.

It is easy to see wherein this is a two-sided question. Enterprise pitted against indolence has been one of the strong factors in building the system. The indolent tenant, careless of his obligations, and who seeks nothing beyond an existence, is evidently made the basis of the system; and the rules made to fit him are applied to all alike. This is, of course, an injustice to that large class of industrious and honest tenant farmers who are entitled to and should be given every encouragement.

Unquestionably, however, there is something wrong about a system that demands all cotton from the tenant, not only compelling him to add to overproduction, but to purchase his food supplies at high prices instead of making them at home. The effect of it would be doubly disastrous in a year —1915—when every grower should not only reduce his acreage 50 per cent, but make all the home supplies his ground will yield.

Under present conditions there can be little doubt that the land owner will concede the necessity for this, and will in most instances at least urge and even insist upon the tenant cutting his cotton acreage and devoting the rest of his land to grain, hay and foodstuffs. While he is naturally anxious for a quick return, there is no question that the average land owner would rather have four bales of cotton, worth 12 cents or more, together with his proportion of corn or other supplies, than seven or eight bales worth only 6 cents a pound.

In the meantime, there is a big economic question here demanding serious and [illegible] thought and consideration. It is undoubtedly possible to devise some plan which will bring to the aid of the tenant class that degree of independence which they should enjoy, without impairment of or injury to the other rights and interests involved.

Merchants and Bankers, As Well as Farmers, Must Abandon Ruts

Editor Constitution: There has been unusual activity since the outbreak of the European war, in telling southern farmers to diversify their crops, to grow grain, live stock, etc. This is good as far as it goes, and no doubt efforts and advice of this kind are duly appreciated by the farmers, but would it not be well for the press and trade bodies so deeply interested in having sound, healthy economic conditions prevail, to preach more to our bankers and merchants as to the part necessary for them to take, in bringing about this imperative change. For instance, I read in a recent issue of your paper, where peavine hay was offered on the Atlanta market, and it was stated that buyers could not be found.

Would it not be well enough for someone to inform the feed dealers and stock men of Atlanta that peavine hay contains over 9 per cent digestible protein and 42 per cent digestible carbo hydrates, while the western produce timothy hay contains less than 2 per cent protein and 45 per cent carbo hydrates?

The peavine hay is therefore worth a great deal more in feeding value. I sup-

pose the western product is better known in your market. Again, bright, dry, nicely baled corn stover is being offered in your city in car lots at $12 per ton, and no takers. This, another southern product, is a fine roughage for horses, mules and cattle, contains 1½ per cent protein and 33 per cent carbo hydrates—fully 60 per cent in feeding value compared with timothy, and offered much cheaper according to value.

Is it not time for somebody besides the farmer to wake up and get out of old "ruts?" You tell the farmer to raise more of these products, and that he must do this, and raise less cotton, or the whole south will go broke.

I believe that you are right when you say this. Allow me to modestly suggest that you add knowledge to virtue by informing your merchants as to the value of these staple crops they are advising the farmers to grow, and tell them to practice what they preach so often, to patronize home industry.

Our bankers and moneyed men should know also that debt-ridden cotton farmers cannot get started in growing grain and live stock if they are to make their notes in May and meet them in October.

Much operating capital will be required for necessary investment, in purchasing breeding herds, machinery and implements, and for building fences, barns and silos, while very slight returns can be realized for the first three years.

It is easy enough to tell the farmer what he should do. We stand or fall together. The idea is, some patriotism must be found in commercial and financial ranks, not necessarily outside the pale of conservative business.

It has been truly said that our section is wonderful in resources, but general and lasting prosperity can come only through prosperity of our producers—our farmers.

In their present condition, the great majority must have more assistance than merely good advice to make the necessary changes that many are ready to make, if patronage and financial assistance can be secured.

The war has not made present conditions; it has only aggravated conditions that were already here, caused by too much cotton and entirely too much buying of feed stuff and live stock grown in other sections. Everybody, farmers and all, now see the necessity of revolutionizing. Then let everybody know it will take something besides talk to do it.

Yours for more hog, hominy, hay, cattle and content, W. A. BRANNON.

Moreland, Ga.

AN AMAZING PARADOX.

It is a startling indictment Mrs. Nellie Peters Black, farmer, of Atlanta, brings against the enterprise of the business leaders of Georgia when, in a communication published today, she gives proof that the farmers of this state are embarrassed in diversifying, for the reason that there are no markets for diversified crops. Mrs. Black is the daughter of Richard Peters, a pioneer of Atlanta. She is herself a splendid business woman, and a modern farm manager. Her plantation in Gordon county is a model of its kind.

The Constitution has before published charges and complaints of a similar nature. Only last week we printed a letter from Dan Hughes, assistant state commissioner of agriculture, who declared that until Georgia had a bureau of markets there was little incentive to the farmer to raise food crops.

Mrs. Black speaks out of experience. She says that farmers "single-shot" on cotton because that is the one crop that will fetch cash anywhere. She tells of producing oats and hay, and having Atlanta dealers tell her they preferred the western product. She says also that the farmer who produces apples and eggs and poultry and general dairy products must sacrifice his output, for the simple reason that he can find no remunerative city market.

W. A. Brannon, of Moreland, Ga., puts forward very similar views. He declares that it is the bankers and merchants who are in a rut. They, and not the farmers, need to diversify.

Obviously, here is a situation requiring commercial statesmanship of the highest order. There are plenty of mediums for connecting the farm with the city. The machinery is all there.

What is wrong with our chambers of commerce, our bankers, our leaders everywhere that they do not co-operate in setting this machinery to work? It is certain as anything can be that if Georgia is to win the true value from the epidemic of diversification that will prevail this coming spring and summer, home markets must be created!

That is one of the biggest jobs now confronting constructive Georgia leadership.

HOW ONE NEGRO IS FEELING PROSPEROUS.

There is a negro on the plantation of Mr. S. L. Tyson, of Montgomery, who is worrying less than his neighbors about the trouble the war has caused the people of this country. Mr. Tyson states that the negro, one of the old-timers on his place, has to his credit after two years' work, 900 bushels of good corn. He has only three acres in cotton. At $1 a bushel the negro hasn't much to worry about.

In the beginning of the year Mr. Tyson proposed to this renter that he raise nothing but corn this year, agreeing to accept corn at 60 cents a bushel for rent. The negro readily agreed to experiment one time—but he put in three acres of cotton anyhow.

Both are glad they entered such an agreement.

GOOD RESOLVE OF ALABAMA BANKERS.

The bankers of Alabama who met in conference at the capitol in Montgomery passed a resolution which is calculated to do the Alabama farmer about as much good as anything that has been done since the depression in the cotton market set in early in the fall. These bankers, representing a preponderance of the banking capital of the State adopted a resolution pledging themselves not to extend financial aid "to anyone directly or indirectly interested in the raising of cotton for the year 1915, unless such person will enter into an agreement to curtail production and reduce the acreage in cotton at least one-half of what it was in 1914."

The bankers also endorsed heartily a recommendation to the chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the Alabama Bankers' Association that he proceed at once with the organization of county committees. It is suggested to him that he appoint a chairman for each county in the State with authority to organize the bankers, the business men and the farmers for the purpose of obtaining a substantial and fair reduction of acreage in the respective localities.

Herein is the way to get the co-operation of furnishing merchants in the movement to compel acreage reduction. Unless full and hearty co-operation is secured from the merchant who furnishes many of our farmers, much of the good to come from the resolution of the bankers will be nullified. Thousands of Alabama farmers get their money and supplies from such merchants. We trust, however, that this siuation will take care of itself.

The bankers at the Montgomery meeting, being progressive, observant men, men fully alive to the needs and necessities of Alabama, went on record as favoring the following proposition:

> We will lend our hearty support to all efforts made in good faith to diversify crops in Alabama, and especially will we encourage and aid the raising of food products for home consumption and for supplying markets at home and abroad.
>
> We earnestly urge our sister cotton States in the South, to join in this movement to increase the present price of cotton, and reduce the production of cotton for 1915, and we respectfully request that the Alabama Bankers' Association, and A. E. Walker, Superintendent of Banks, take up this movement and endeavor to interest the banks in other cotton States to take concerted action on these important subjects.

The attitude of the bankers is not only reasonable and just; it seems absolutely necessary. If they will agree to back farmers who raise money products other than cotton, they will do their State a service. But a banker cannot be expected to advance money recklessly; and it would be a reckless policy if our bankers should advance money in 1915 on a 15,000,000 or 16,000,000 bale crop when we still have the bulk of the 1914 crop on hand.

We look for wholesome results to come from the resolution of the Alabama bankers, and we congratulate them upon their advanced step. It is to be hoped that the bankers will receive full co-operation from everyone concerned.

If the bankers in all Southern States would proclaim a similar policy to be adhered to next year, the announcement should have a favorable effect upon the present cotton market, already on the upward move, being pushed along as it is by the Wade syndicate plan, and the influence which the opening of the Federal Reserve Banks is having.

NEWS ABOUT PERSONS COMMENT UPON EVENTS.

J. M. BATTLE, one of the leading negro farmers of Pine Level, Route one(has three sons whom he claims picked 919 pounds of cotton in one day. He says the cotton was picked Wednesday September 9.

Following is the record of the three sons in the cottonfield, James, aged 16, picked 403 pounds; George, age 14, 302 pounds and Josiah, age 12, 214 pounds.

For three boys, the oldest of whom is but 16, that's a record. In fact, that's a day's work for any three folks in the world. The Advertiser should be glad to give space to the claims of other current cotton picking champions.

BANKS OF DOTHAN TAKE FIRM STAND

No Financial Aid Will Be Given Planters Who Fail To Reduce Acreage

Special to The Advertiser.

DOTHAN, ALA., Oct. 3—If it is within the power of Dothan banks to bring about a change, the cotton acreage in 1915 will be reduced at least 50 per cent in Southeast Alabama. If the farmers refuse to diversify their crops in order to plant less cotton, they will not receive the financial support of local banking institutions. This means that the cotton produced in this section next year will be upon a much smaller scale.

This conclusion was reached following a meeting of farmers and bankers at the court house Saturday afternoon which turned out to be a pacification and understanding talkfest.

George H. Malone, Cashier of the First National Bank, openly announced that that institution will refuse financial assistance to farmers next year unless they agree to reduce heir cotton acreage 50 per cent. Atfer the meeting, K. L. Forrester, Cashier of the Houston National Bank, and J. A. L. Crawford, Cashier of the Dothan National Bank, assured The Advertiser representative that they favored similar ideas. Therefore the three largest banks in Dothan have taken positions favoring a curtailment of the cotton crop.

The court room was packed with farmers and a large number also occupied seats in the gallery. They were in Dothan seeking aid in the present crisis, and while nothing to afford immediate relief was offered, a better understanding of the situation was reached between banker and farmer and thereby more co-operation, it is believed, assured.

Bankers who addressed the meeting assured the farmers of their co-operation, the different talks being very much on the same line. Farmers were assured that the banks would not crowd them for their debts and that they will assist them every way they can.

The meeting, it is believed, will be beneficial as many questions were explained by the speakers.

T. J. Dawsey, a farmer, was elected Chairman of the meeting and J. L. Jordan, Secretary. The speakers were J. R. Crawford, retired banker, Dothan; Oscar Lawson, farmer, Cowarts; J. R. McCargle, farmer, Cottonwood; G. H. Malone, banker, Dothan; K. L. Forrester, banker, Dothan, and C. S. Newberry, farmer, Dothan.